Turkmen Language Grammar Guide

U.S. Peace Corps Turkmenistan

Table of Contents

Introduction **6**

Turkmen Language History 6
The Five Branches of Turkic Languages 7
Language Variation and Dialects 7

The Turkmen Alphabet **8**

Evolution of the Alphabet 8
The Alphabet 8
Vowels 9
Consonants 9
Short and Long Vowels 10
Vowel Harmony 11
Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants 12
Sound Assimilation/Letter Transformation 12
Vocal Transformations 13

The Case System **14**

Cases and Their Suffixes 14
The Nominative Case 15
The Genitive Case 15
The Dative Case 15
The Accusative Case 16
The Locative Case 16
The Instrumental Case 16
Cases of Pronouns 17

Possessive Suffixes **18**

Possessive Suffixes without a Genitive Case Subject 18
The Absolute Possessive: -ky/-ki 18
Referring to groups of people or things 19

Forming Questions: -my?/-mi? **20**

Forming Plurals: -lar/-ler **21**

Verb Overview **22**

Present Tense **23**

Simple Present, Emphatic Statement: -dyr/-dir 24

Past Tense **25**

Action in the Distant Past: -yp/-ip 25
Expressing Unwitnessed Actions: -ypdyr/-ipdir 26
Expressing surprise: “Eken” 27
Past Conditions 27

Future Tense **28**

Definite Future 28
Indefinite Future 28
Expressing Intended Action in the Past 29
Anticipated Action: -jak/-jek bolmak 31
Future Conditions 32

Relative Clauses **33**

Present Tense 33
Past Tense 34
Future Tense 34
Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case 35
Relative Clauses without Nouns 36
Relative Clauses with "-ky/-ki" 36
Relative Clauses with "-ly/-li" 37

Expressing Intention 38

Imperative Forms/Commands 39

Requests 39
Informal Commands 39
Formal or Plural Commands 39
Less Formal, Polite Commands 39
Formal, Polite Request 40
Formal, Polite Commands 40
Encouraging Commands 40
Asking For Permission 40
Making Suggestions 41
Expressing Third-Person Desires 42

Obligatory Forms 43

Positive Obligatory Actions in the Past 44
Negative Obligatory Actions in the Past 44

Conditionals: 46

Simple Conditionals 46
Conditionals in the Present Tense 47
Conditionals in the Past Tense 48
Conditionals in the Future 48

Double Verbs 50

Expressing Ability: -yp/-ip/-p bilmek 50
Doing an Action for Someone: -yp/-ip/-p bermek 51
Beginning an Action: -yp/-ip/-p başlamak 51
Completing an Action: -yp/-ip/-p bolmak/gutarmak 51
Attempted Action: -yp/-ip/-p görmek 52

Expressing Continuous Action: Otyr, Ýatyr, Dur, Ýör, Barmak 53

Expressing Possibility 55

Requesting Permission: mümkinmi? 56
Indicating Likely Situations 57
Making a guess 58

Expressing Wants and Desires 59

Comparatives and Superlatives 61

Statements Expressing Time 63

Habitual Action In the Past 63
Statements With "wagt" 63
Temporal Statements With "-ka/-kä" 64
Constructing Time Clauses 65
Statements With "Before" and "After" 65
Expressing lengths of time 66
Statements With "-ça/-çä" 67

Gerunds and Infinitives **68**
Applying Dative Case to Verbs: -maga/-mäge 68
Gerunds with "-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş" 69
Imposing Desires on Others: -magyny/-megini 69
Postpositions **71**
Other Important Grammatical Points **72**
Bar and Ýok 72
The Verb "Bolmak" 72
"In Order To" 74
Wondering 75
Causing 75
Reported Speech 76
Expressing Hearsay and Rumor: -myş/-miş 77
To Get The Attention "Bara" 78
Verb Suffixes **79**
Passive: -yl/-il, -ul/-ül, -l 79
Reflexive: -yn/-in, -un/-ün, -n 79
Reciprocal: -yş/-iş,-uş/-üş,-ş 80
Causative: -dyr/-dir, -dur/-dür, -yr/-ir, -ur/-ür, -uz/-üz, -ar/-er, -dar/-der, -t 80
Important Suffixes and Prefixes **82**
-la/-le 82
-çy/-çi,-ýjy/-ýji,-yjy/-iji,-üji/-ujy 82
-dar 82
-keş 82
-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz 83
-ly/-li 83
bi- 83
-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük 83
Diminutives 84
The "-da/-de" ending as "also" 84
"-da/-de" Ownuk Bölegi "Hem" Manysynda 84
Some Common Mistakes Made by English Speakers **85**
The Double Negative 85
"Eger," "Haçan," and Conditionals 85
Definite vs. Indefinite Future 86
"Nähili?" vs. "Nädip?" 86
Case Mix-ups 87

Introduction

The Turkmen Language belongs to the greater family of Turkic languages. The Turkic languages, together with the Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus languages, form the Ural-Altaic language group. Specifically, Turkmen is included in the sub-group of Southern Turkic (Oguz) languages, along with Turkish, Crimean Tatar, and Azeri. Southern Turkic is a sub-group of Common Turkic, which also includes Kazakh, Uzbek, Uigur, Kyrgyz, and others.

Among all the Turkic languages, there are similar grammatical structures, similar phonetics, some shared vocabulary, and high mutual intelligibility. Some experts also consider Japanese and Korean part of this phylum, or family, although evidence of this is debated.

Turkmen is agglutinative, meaning its grammatical functions are indicated by adding various suffixes to fixed stems. Suffixes on nouns indicate number. In general, Turkmen employs a Subject-Object-Verb word order, as is typical for Turkic languages, but other orders are possible in certain discourse situations. As such, Turkmen makes use of postpositions rather than prepositions, and unique relative clauses that precede the verb. In some ways Turkmen is an easy language to learn. Unlike Russian or Spanish, Turkmen has no genders. There are no irregular verbs. For the most parts, words are written exactly as they are pronounced. Finally, Turkmen's grammatical case system is remarkably simple once understood, and has almost no exceptions.

The greatest difficulty for beginning Turkmen speakers will probably be adapting to Turkmen's elaborate system of grammatical suffixes, or "tag words" and learning to re-order their speech so that the predicate (verb) is the last thing spoken. Also, many simple English grammatical structures (such as "to have," "to need," "to want," and "to be able to") are handled differently in Turkmen.

Turkmen Language History

The entrance of Turkic-speaking groups into the southwestern region of Central Asia by the fifth and sixth centuries gradually changed the area from Persian-speaking to Turkic-speaking. The decisive influx came when Oguz tribes migrated into the area between the Ural Mountains and the Aral Sea around the 8th and 9th centuries. During this same period the term Turkmen was first used to refer to these people. By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the Oguz tribes in Turkmenistan had coalesced to the point that they could be regarded as a single people. Although they shared common traditions and the same language, they had strong divisions among them. Subnational and clan consciousness still predominates in Turkmenistan where Turkmen people tend to divide themselves by origin and clan. The newly independent Turkmenistan state gained independence from the Soviet Union on October 27, 1991.

The oldest monuments of Turkic languages—inscribed on stones and datable to the early 8th century CE—were discovered in the late 19th century in southern Siberia around the Yenisey River and in northern Mongolia near the capital of Urga (modern Ulaan-Baatar). Deciphered in 1893 by the Danish scholar Vilhelm Thomsen, they provide valuable insights into the history of Central Asia around the seventh century CE. These records of the Turk dynasty (Chinese T'u-chüeh) include texts found at Kosho-Tsaidam on the Orhon River, as well as several Chinese

texts. These texts throw light on the nomadic culture of the tribal empire controlled by the Turk dynasty (Gokturks), including shamanism, the calendar, customs, and social structure, with strong Chinese influence detectable in the latter.

The Five Branches of Turkic Languages

1. Oguz, also known as Southern or Southwestern Turkic (includes the Turkish language, or Osmanli, the most widely used Turkic language, spoken in Turkey and the Balkan Peninsula; Azeri, spoken in Azerbaijan and northwestern Iran; and Turkmen, spoken in Turkmenistan and other parts of Central Asia;
2. Kipchak, or Western Turkic (includes the Kazakh and Kyrgyz languages, spoken in Central Asia; Tatar, spoken around the middle Volga, and in Turkey, the Balkans, Central Asia, and China; Bashkort or Bashkir language, which is very similar to Tatar);
3. Karluk or Eastern Turkic (includes Uzbek, spoken in Uzbekistan and other parts of Central Asia and Uigur, spoken in the Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region of China, and parts of Central Asia);
4. Northern Turkic, also known as Eastern Hunnic (consists of a number of languages spoken in Siberia, such as Yakut and Altay);
5. And the single-language branch consisting of the Chuvash language, spoken along the middle Volga River.

Language Variation and Dialects

Turkmen has numerous dialects, which differ phonologically and morphologically. They can be broken into two general groups: the major or central dialects and others on the periphery. The following dialects, generally regarded as major, also denote tribal distinctions: Yomut, Teke, Salir, Sarik, Goklen, Arsari, and Chowdur. No consensus exists, however, on exactly how many major dialects should be recognized within Turkmen.

Some scholars claim that the standard language is based on just one dialect—Yomut. Most linguists, however, acknowledge that Yomut and Teke are the two dialects whose contributions to the formation of the standard language since 1920 surpass those of any other dialect.

The Turkmen Alphabet
Türkmen Elipbiýi

Evolution of the Alphabet
Elipbiýiň taryhy

The Turkmen alphabet was first written in the Arabic script, until about 1929, when the "Unified Turkish Latin Alphabet" (UTLA), which was based on the Roman alphabet, was introduced. This alphabet was very similar to the Roman alphabet currently used for the Turkish language. The UTLA script was replaced in 1940 when all Turkic people in the Soviet Union were required to adopt the Cyrillic script. Finally, in 1995, the "**Täze Türkmen Elipbiýi**," or New Alphabet, was formally introduced by President Niyazov to re-align Turkmenistan with the non-Soviet world. Similar new alphabets have been introduced in Uzbekistan and other republics.

The New Alphabet is currently used for street signs and political slogans, but there is a shortage of other reading materials. Most Turkmen books in print are older and use the Cyrillic alphabet. The new alphabet is used for new Turkmen texts, instruction in schools, and for all official documents. Despite this, there has been no push for the older generation to learn the new alphabet and therefore newspapers, information, and other resources are often available in both alphabets.

The new alphabet (**Täze Elipbiý**), containing nine vowels and twenty-one consonants, is much easier for native English speakers to read and understand than the Cyrillic, and also seems better suited to the Turkmen language. For this reason we have used it in the grammar discussions of this text. Most letters are pronounced more or less like their English counterparts.

The Alphabet
Täze Elipbiý

The following is a list of the letters of the new Turkmen alphabet and English approximations of how to pronounce their Turkmen names:

Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name	Letter	Name
Aa	"ah"	Ää	"a"*	Jj	"jeh"	Nn	"en"	Rr	"er"*	Üü	"ü"*
Bb	"beh"	Ff	"eff"	Žž	"zheh"	Ňň	"eng"	Ss	"eth"	Ww	"weh"
Çç	"cheh"	Gg	"geh"	Kk	"ka"	Oo	"o"	Şş	"sheh"	Yy	"uyi"*
Dd	"deh"	Hh	"heh"*	Ll	"ell"	Öö	"ö"*	Tt	"teh"	Ýý	"yeh"
Ee	"eh"	Ii	"ee"	Mm	"em"	Pp	"peh"	Uu	"ooh"	Zz	"theh"

*For these letters it is impossible to approximate a phonetical spelling using English letters. "Ä" is pronounced like the "a" in "apple." The first "h" in "heh" should be pronounced as a fricative in the throat like the "ch" in "Bach." "R" is not pronounced like the "er" in the English word "writer." There should be a slight roll of the tongue on the "r," as in Spanish or Russian. "Ö," "ü," and "y" are vowels that do not appear in English. For their pronunciations, see below. It should be noted that different dialects have different pronunciations for some consonants. For example, **s**'s and **z**'s are not always lisped.

Like in all languages the Turkmen alphabet can be divided into two groups: **vowels** (*çekimli sesler*) and **consonants** (*çekimsiz sesler*).

vowels (*çekimli sesler*)	a, e, ä, i, o, ö, u, ü, y
consonants (*çekimsiz sesler*)	b, ç, d, f, g, h, j, ž, k, l, m, n, ň, p, r, s, ş, t, w, ý, z

Vowels

Çekimliler

Short vowels are approximately like simple vowels in standard American English. English has no true equivalents of long vowels because it has "diphthongs" or double vowels that are different from each other. For example, in pronouncing the word "wrote," English speakers actually make **o** into two different vowels (oh--ooh). The sound of long vowels can be approximated by extending the pronunciation of a short vowel for the duration of two vowels.

The nine vowels of Turkmen are represented by the following letters or letter-groups:

a When short, pronounced as the English **a** in the word "f**a**ther." In words with a long **a**, it is pronounced as a drawn-out English **aa**, as in "b**a**h (humbug)."

ä When short, pronounced as the English **a** in "**a**nt." In words with a long **a**, it is pronounced as a drawn-out **a** as in "m**a**n" or "l**a**mp."

e When short, pronounced as the English **e** in "p**e**t." There is no long **e** in Turkmen.

y When short, pronounced similar to the English **i** in "poss**i**ble." In words with a long **y**, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn out **hee** in "w**hee**l," but deep in the throat.

i When short, pronounced as the English **i** in "m**i**ddle." In words with a long **i**, it is pronounced approximately like **ea** in "**ea**sy."

o When short, pronounced as the English **a** in "**a**ll." In words with a long **o**, it is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English **o** in "b**oa**rd."

u When short, pronounced as English **u** in "tr**u**th." In words with a long **u**, this sound is pronounced approximately as a drawn-out English **ou** in "thr**ou**gh."

ö Pronounced short, is close to **ir** in "g**ir**l" but with rounding the lips. In words with a long **o**, it is pronounced with a longer duration than short **o**, as in the word l**ea**rn.

ü Similar to **u** as English "pr**u**ne," but with more tightly rounded lips.

Consonants

Çekimsizler

The 21 Turkmen consonants are represented by the following letters:

p Pronounced as English **p** in "pen."

t Pronounced as English **t** in "ten".

k Pronounced as English **k** in "keep" when in words with the vowels **ä**, **e**, **i**, **ö**, **ý** but as English **c** in "call" when in words with the vowels **a**, **y**, **o**, **u**.

b Pronounced as English **b** in "boy" at the beginning of a word and similar to **v** or **w** in other positions.

d Pronounced as English **d** in "deep."

g Pronounced as English **g** in "geese" when in words with the vowels **ä**, **e**, **i**, **ö**, **ý**, but as a sound like the soft English **gh** in "yogurt" in words with **a**, **y**, **o**, **u**.

m Pronounced as English **m** in "meat."
n Pronounced as English **n** in the word "nice."
ň Pronounced as English **ng** in "sing."
l Pronounced as English **l** in "look."
r Pronounced the same way as English **r** in "rice", but with a trill.
s Pronounced as a hard English **th** in "**th**ing" in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English **s** in "**s**un" in words coming from Russian.
z Pronounced as a soft English **th** in "**th**e" in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English **z** in "zoo" in words coming from Russian.
ş Pronounced as English **sh** in "share."
ç Pronounced as English **ch** in "check."
ž Pronounced as English **s** in "treasure" in words from Russian.
j Pronounced as English **j** in "juice."
h Pronounced as English **h** in "hall" in some words, but as a gutteral **ch** in English-German "Bach" in other Turkmen words.
f Pronounced as English **f** in "four."
w Pronounced as English **w** in "wagon" in Turkmen (including Arabic and Persian) words, but as English **v** in "very" in words from Russian.
ý Pronounced as English **y** in "yes."

Short and Long Vowels
Gysga we uzyn çekimliler

Vowels are divided into two groups: **short** (*gysga*) and **long** (*uzyn*) vowels.

short vowels (*gysga çekimliler*)	**a , e , - , i , o , ö , u , ü , y**
long vowels (*uzyn çekimliler*)	**a:, - , ä:, i:,o:, ö:, u:, ü:, y:**

In Turkmen the sound **e** has no long variant and **ä** has no short variant. For example:

ene	grandmother	**ä:dik**	boots
eşik	clothes	**ä:ynek**	glass
gelin	daugher-in-law	**tä:ze**	new
şemal	wind	**kä:se**	cup

Beginners should take care to learn the difference between short and long vowels. This difference often is all that distinguishes the meanings of two words.

at	horse	**a:t**	name
bil	know! (imperative)	**bi:l**	waist
ot	grass	**o:t**	fire
pil	elephant	**pi:l**	shovel
daş	far	**da:ş**	stone
yaz	write!	**ya:z**	spring
tut	catch! (imperative)	**tu:t**	mulberry
öl	die! (imperative)	**ö:l**	wet

Vowel Harmony
Çekimlileriň sazlaşygy

One very interesting feature of Turkmen is that all vowels can be divided into two groups: the **front vowels** (*inçe çekimli sesler*) and the **back vowels** (*ýogyn çekimli sesler*). Front vowels are pronounced higher in the throat and are more nasal, while back vowels are pronounced lower in the throat and are more guttural.

front vowels (*inçe çekimli sesler*)	**ä, ö, ü, i, e**
back vowels (*ýogyn çekimli sesler*)	**a, o, u, y**

In Turkmen, if the first vowel in a word is a front vowel, the rest of the vowels in the word and in suffixes added to the word must also be front vowels.

eşik		eşik**lerimiz**
gelneje	+ **l<u>e</u>r** + **<u>i</u>m<u>i</u>z** =	gelneje**lerimiz**
meýletinçi		meýletinçi**lerimiz**

Similarly, if the first vowel in a word is a back vowel, then any subsequent vowels must also be back vowels.

talyp		talyp**larymyz**
okuwçy	+ **l<u>a</u>r** + **<u>y</u>m<u>y</u>z** =	okuwçy**larymyz**
baýramçylyk		baýramçylyk**larymyz**

In short, front vowels go with front vowels and back vowels go with back vowels. However, this vowel harmony can be broken within international, borrowed and compound words. For example: **telewizor**, **radio**, **ofis** (international); **magnitofon** (Russian); **kitap**, **dükan**, **serdar** (Persian-Arabic); **älemgoşar**, **Gülşat** (compound).

In these cases, consistent with the general rule for vowel harmony in Turkmen, the final vowel of the word determines the vowel harmony for suffixation.

Verbs in Turkmen adhere consistently to vowel harmony. All verbs belong to one of two groups determined by their infinitive forms: those ending in "**-mak**," and those ending in "**-mek**." The suffixes for all "**-mak**" verbs have only back vowels, whereas only front vowels will be found in the suffixes of "**-mek**" verbs. Examples of this will follow in the explanations of verb tenses.

In addition to being divided into front and back, vowels can also be divided into rounded and open vowels. **Rounded vowels** (*dodak cekimliler*) are pronounced using the lips: **o, ö, u, ü**. **Unrounded vowels** (*dodaklanmaýan cekimliler*) are pronounced further back in the mouth: **a, ä, e, i, y**. If a word has a rounded vowel in the first syllable, its second syllable (and therefore any ending you affix to a one syllable word) usually also contains a rounded vowel. Thus if the first vowel is an "a" (**almak**), the vowel in the ending will be another open vowel – "y" (**aldym**). But if the first vowel is an "o" (**bolmak**), the vowel in the ending will be rounded (**boldum**).

Examples of standard verb endings are below:

almak → ald**y**m, als**y**n, al**y**ň, al**y**p, al**y**ndy
çekmek → çekd**i**m, çeks**i**n, çek**i**ň, çek**i**p, çek**i**ldi
gitmek → gitd**i**k, gits**i**n, gid**i**ň, gid**i**p, gid**i**ldi
çykmak → çykd**y**ň, çyks**y**n, çyk**y**ň, çyk**y**p, çyk**y**ldy

Examples of the exceptions that follow the rounded-vowel rule are below:

bolmak → bold**u**m, bols**u**n, bol**u**ň, bol**u**p, bol**u**ndy
bökmek → bökd**ü**k, böks**ü**n, bök**ü**ň, bök**ü**p, bök**ü**ldi
uçmak → uçd**u**ňyz, uçs**u**nlar, uç**u**ň, uç**u**p, uç**u**ldy
düşmek → düşd**ü**m, düşs**ü**n, düş**ü**ň, düs**ü**p, düs**ü**ldi

These exceptions apply only to verb forms such as the ones listed above, and do not affect present tense or definite or indefinite future tense endings. They do, however, affect genitive case endings: top**u**ň, ot**u**ň, öz**ü**m, un**u**ň, gül**ü**ň.

Also note that if adding an ending puts two "e"s together, or an "e" followed by "i," the vowel will become "ä":

işl**e**- + **e**mok = işl**ä**mok işl**e** + **i**p = işl**ä**p

In addition, words whose spellings do not follow the rounded vowel rule (üçin, müdir, olar, çörek) are often pronounced in a way that follows the rule ("üç**ü**n", "müd**ü**r", "ol**o**r", "çör**ö**k"). However, a rounded vowel never appears in the third syllable of a word (düşünd**i**m, ýuwund**y**m), although it may be pronounced as though it did.

Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants
Açyk we dymyk çekimsizler

In Turkmen all consonants can be divided into two groups as well.

voiced (*açyk çekimsizler*)	**b, w, g, d, z, j, ž, y, l, m, n, ň, r**
unvoiced (*dymyk çekimsizler*)	**k, p, s, t, f, h, ç, ş**

Sound Assimilation/Letter Transformation
Dymyk çekimsizleriň açyga öwrülmegi

Sound assimilation occurs due to certain letter combinations. Although sound assimilation occurs in English, we do not change the spelling of words. In Turkmen however, when certain letter combinations occur, the spelling of a word is changed to reflect its pronunciation.

In Turkmen, therefore, when a suffix starting with a vowel is added to a word stem that ends with one of the following letters: "**k, p, t, ç**," the letter must be changed as follows:

K → G P → B T → D Ç → J

Kita**p** → meniň kita**b**ym
Pişi**k** → onuň pişi**g**i
Gülşa**t** → Gülşa**d**yň sumkasy
Guwan**ç** → Guwan**j**yň jigisi

Vocal Transformations

Çekimsiz sesleriň meňzeşleşmegi

Certain consonant combinations are spoken differently in Turkmen than their written forms would indicate. For example, the "**nd**" of "**mende**" (on my person) is pronounced "**nn**" when spoken (**menne**). The following chart illustrates these combinations and examples with the spoken transformations rendered in the new alphabet.

Written	**Spoken**	**Written**	**Spoken**	**Translation**
n + d	nn	sende	senne	on your person
l + d	ll	aldym	allym	I took
z + d	zz	agyzda	agyzza	in the mouth
s + d	ss	bäsdeş	bässeş	rival
s + t	ss	üsti	üssi	top, surface
ş + j	ş ş	goşjak	goşşak	will add
z + s	ss	ýazsyn	ýassyn	let him write
t + s	ss	gitse	gisse	if she goes
t + ç	çç	parahatçylyk	parahaççylyk	peace
ç + s	şs	açsa	aşsa	if it opens
ç + l	şl	açlyk	aşlyk	hunger, famine
ç + d	şd	geçdik	geşdik	we passed
ç + j	şş	içjek	işşek	will drink
g + b	gw	bagban	bagwan	gardener

The Case System
Düşümler

Like Russian or German, Turkic languages have a system of grammatical cases. Cases change words depending on their grammatical context. English has cases for personal prounouns. For example: "I see **him**," "He sees **me**," *not*: "Me sees he," or "Him sees I." Turkmen has six cases, and these cases are used for all nouns, not just personal prounouns. The six Turkmen cases are: the **nominative**, used for the subject of the sentence; the **genitive**, similar to English possessives; the **dative**, used to show directed action; the **accusative**, which is similar to the English "direct object" the **locative**, which shows locality; and the **instrumental**, which is used to show origin.

While six cases might seem a bit overwhelming at first, it should be noted that the case suffixes often simply replace our English prepositions such as "from," "at," "with," "in," "on," and "to." Also, the rules for their use are remarkably simple and inflexible, unlike those of the Russian cases.

Cases and Their Suffixes
Düşümler we olaryň goşulmalary

	Vowel Endings	**Consonant Endings**
Nominative *Baş düşüm*	--- (no change) pagta - cotton Gökdepe - Gokdepe (a town)	--- (no change) gazan - pot käşir - carrot(s)
Genitive *Eýelik düşüm*	**-nyň, -niň (-nuň, -nüň)** pagta**nyň**- cotton's Gökdepä**niň**- Gokdepe's	**-yň, -iň (-uň, -üň)** gazan**yň**- pot's käşir**iň**- carrots'
Dative *Yöneliş düşüm*	**-a,-ä or -na, -ne** pagt**a**- to cotton Gökdep**ä**- to Gokdepe	**-a, -e** gazan**a**- to the pot käşir**e**- to the carrots
Accusative *Yeňiş düşüm*	**-ny, -ni** pagta**ny**- the cotton (direct ob.) Gökdepä**ni**- Gokdepe (d.o.)	**-y, -i** gazan**y**- the pot (d.o.) käşir**i**- the carrot(s) (d.o.)
Locative *Wagt-orun düşüm*	**-da, -de or -nda, -nde** pagta**da**- in the cotton (field) Gökdepe**de**- in Gokdepe	**-da, -de** gazan**da**- in the pot käşir**de**- in carrots
Instrumental *Çykyş düşüm*	**-dan, -den or -ndan, -nden** pagta**dan**- from cotton Gökdepe**den**- from Gokdepe	**-dan, -den** gazan**dan**- from the pot käşir**den**- from carrots

The Nominative Case
Baş düşüm
This case answers **Kim**? (Who?), **Näme**? (What?), **Nire**? (Where?).
It is used for the subject of the sentence and sometimes for non-specific direct objects (see discussion of the Accusative Case below).

Gökdepe owadan.	Gokdepe is beautiful.
Çyra söndi.	The light was turned off.

The Genitive Case
Eýelik düşüm
This case answers **Kimiň**? (Whose?), **Nämäniň**? (Of what?), **Niräniň**? (Of where?).
It is usually used to show simple possessive relationships. Note that a suffix is also added to the owned object.

Gökdepä**niň** häkimligi	Gokdepe's mayor's office
Gülşad**yň** maşgalasy	Gulshat's family

However, it is sometimes used in ways unfamiliar to English speakers, most notably in postpositional contexts:

Gökdepä**niň** ýanynda	by Gokdepe, near Gokdepe
Stol**yň** aşagynda	under the table.

The Dative Case
Ýöneliş düşüm
This case answers **Kime**? (To whom? For whom?), **Nämä**? (Towards what? To what end?), **Nirä**? (To where?).
It describes an action directed toward something, and is roughly equivalent to "to" in English.

Bu awtobus Gökdep**ä** gidýär.	This bus is going to Gokdepe.
Men Aman**a** sowgat berdim.	I gave a present to Aman.
Sen nir**ä** gitmeli?	Where do you have to go?
Men mekdeb**e** gitmeli.	I have to go to the school.

It can also describe abstract direction.

Jemal**a** çaý gerek.	Jemal needs tea. (Tea is necessary to Jemal.)

Note how the final vowels change in the following examples:

Gökdepe	Bu awtobus Gökdep**ä** gidýär.
Mary	Bu samolýot Mar**a** gidýär.
Çüli	Bu maşyn Çül**ä** gidýär.

The dative case may also be used at times when an English speaker would use the word "for":

Saňa hat ýok.	There is no letter for you.

The Accusative Case
Ýeňiş düşüm

This case answers **Kimi**? (Who?), **Nämäni**? (What?), **Niräni**? (Where?).
It is used for direct objects – things that are acted upon by the verb of the sentence.

Men käşir**i** dograýaryn.	I'm cutting the carrots.

It also carries the specificity of an English "the" and is only used when the object is definite. For example:

Sen ýygnag**y** başlajakmy?	Are you going to start the meeting?
Men şu kitab**y** okadym.	I read this book.

In the following sentences "**ýygnak**" and "**kitap**" are indefinite and refer to "*a* meeting" and "*a* book" as compared to the above sentences, which refer to "*the* meeting" and "*this* book." The above sentences use the accusative case while the examples below do not:

Şu gün ýygnak bar.	Today there is **a** meeting.
Men kitap okadym.	I read **a** book.

The Locative Case
Wagt-orun düşüm

This case answers **Kimde**? (Upon whom?), **Nämede**? (At what?), **Nirede**? (Where? At what place?).
It translates to English in various ways depending on the context, but is roughly the same as the English prepositions "in," "at," and "on."

Men Gökdepe**de** ýaşaýaryn.	I live in Gokdepe.
Men**de** çaý ýok.	I don't have any tea. (On me, there is no tea).
Şu gün klas**da** ýygnak bar.	Today there is a meeting in class.

The Instrumental Case
Çykyş düşüm

This case answers **Kimden**? (From whom?), **Nämeden**? (From what?), **Nireden**? (From where?)
Like the English "from," it can be used to describe origin (physical, material, place).

Bu köýnek Türkiýe**den**.	This dress is from Turkey.
Men ejem**den** hat aldym.	I got a letter from my mother.
Bu köýnek pagta**dan**.	This dress is made from cotton.

Cases of Pronouns

Çalyşmalaryň düşümde üýtgeýşi

Turkmen is similar to Romance languages in that there are two second-person pronouns: one is informal and singular, used to address friends and peers, while the second is employed in formal settings or or when speaking to more than one person. The third-person pronouns are genderless; the distinction between "he," "she," and "it" can only be determined through context. Pronoun cases are similar to regular noun case endings. The main exceptions being the mutation of "**ol**" to "**o**," in the following forms: "**ony**," "**oňa**," "**onuň**," "**onda**," and "**ondan**." Other variations include the following dative pronouns: "**maňa**," "**saňa**," and "**oňa**."

Nominative	**Men** I	**Sen** You (sing., informal)	**Ol** He/she/it	**Biz** We	**Siz** You (plural, formal)	**Olar** They
Genitive	**Meniň** My	**Seniň** Your	**Onuň** His/her/its	**Biziň** Our	**Siziň** Your	**Olaryň** Their
Dative	**Maňa** To me	**Saňa** To you	**Oňa** To him/her/it	**Bize** To us	**Size** To you	**Olara** To them
Accusative	**Meni** Me	**Seni** You	**Ony** Him/her/it	**Bizi** Us	**Sizi** You	**Olary** Them
Locative	**Mende** Upon me	**Sende** Upon you	**Onda** Upon him/her/it	**Bizde** Upon us	**Sizde** Upon you	**Olarda** Upon them
Instrumental	**Menden** From me	**Senden** From you	**Ondan** From him/her/it	**Bizden** From us	**Sizden** From you	**Olardan** From them

Possessive Suffixes
Degişlilik goşulmasy

In Turkmen, the suffix "**iň**" is added to indicate possession. However, unlike in English, a suffix is also added to the object of possession.

Pronouns	**Spoken**	**Vowel ending**	**Consonant ending**
Men + iň My	**Meň**	**-m** kaka**m**, eje**m**	**-ym/-im/-um/-üm** maşyn**ym**, it**im**, öy**üm**
Sen + iň Your	**Seň**	**-ň** kaka**ň**, eje**ň**	**-yň/-iň/-uň/-üň** maşyn**yň**, it**iň**, öy**üň**
Ol = O + nuň His/her/its	**Oň**	**-sy/-si** kaka**sy**, eje**si**	**-y/-i** maşyn**y**, it**i**, öy**i**
Biz + iň Our	**Biziň**	**-myz /miz** kaka**myz**, eje**miz**	**-ymyz/-imiz/-umyz/-ümiz** maşyn**ymyz**, it**imiz**, öy**ümiz**
Siz + iň Your	**Siziň**	**-ňyz/-ňiz** kaka**ňyz**, eje**ňiz**	**-yňyz/-iňiz/-uňyz/-üňiz** maşyn**yňyz**, it**iňiz**, öy**üňiz**
Olar + yň Their	**Olaň**	**-sy/-si** kaka**sy**, eje**si**	**-y/-i** maşyn**y**, it**i**, öy**i**

The genitive participle is often omitted in speech since the suffix alone indicates possession:

Men**iň** kaka**m** geldi.	= Kaka**m** geldi.	My father came.
Siz**iň** kitab**yňyz** gyzykly.	= Kitab**yňyz** gyzykly.	Your book is interesting.
Biz**iň** maşgala**myz** uly.	= Maşgala**myz** uly.	Our family is big.

Possessive Suffixes without a Genitive Case Subject
Eýelik Düşümsiz Degeşlilik

When referring to two nouns in direct relation in Turkmen, the possessive suffixes are used on the second noun, while the first noun remains in the nominative case. The first noun acts more as an adjective than a noun. One example is the word "bus stop," rendered in Turkmen as "awtobus duralga**sy**." If the first noun were in the genitive case ("awtobus**yň** duralga**sy**"), this would indicate one particular bus's stop. For more examples, see below:

maşyn ýag**y** = motor oil	maşyn**yň** ýag**y** = the car's oil
öý işi = home work	öýüň işi = the home's work
ýylan deri**si** = snakeskin	ýylan**yň** deri**si** = the snake's skin

The Absolute Possessive: -ky/-ki
Üýtgewsiz degişlilik

Kimiňki? Whose?	**Spoken**	**Examples**
Meniň + ki Mine	**Meňki**	Bu kitap **meniňki**. This book is mine.

Seniň + ki Yours	**Seňki**	Kompýuter **seniňki**mi? Is this computer yours?
Onuň + ky His/hers/its	**Oňky**	Şu suratlar **onuňky**. These pictures are hers/his.
Biziň + ki Ours	**Biziňki**	Bu çagalar **biziňki**. These children are ours.
Siziň + ki Yours	**Siziňki**	Alyň, şu sowgat **siziňki**. Here, this present is yours.
Olaryň + ky Theirs	**Olaňky**	Maşyn **olaryňky**my? Is the car theirs?

The absolute possessive **-ky/-ki** can be added to nouns too:

Bu palto **Kellineňki**.	This coat is Kelli's.
Bu kitap **mekdebiňki**.	This book is the school's.

Referring to groups of people or things
Adamlaryň ýa-da zatlaryň toparlarda aňladylyşy

In Turkmen, the genitive case and its corresponding suffixes are used to talk about groups of people in a way similar to the English "four of us" or "all of us." The genitive case may be applied either to numbers or words such as "**hemme**" or absolute negatives with "**hiç**." Note that the possessive ending is enough to communicate this idea, so pronouns are often dropped:

(Biz**iň**) ik**imiz**	(The) two of us
(Siz**iň**) üç**iňiz**	(The) three of you
(Olar**yň**) kyrk**ysy**	(The) forty of them
Itler**iň** hemm**esi**	All of the dogs
Çagalar**yň** hiç bir**i**	None of the children
Süýjiler**iň** bar**ysy**	All of the candies
Hiç**imiz**	None of us

Forming Questions: -my?/-mi?
Sorag Goşulmasy

In Turkmen, questions are not indicated by vocal inflection but rather by the use of a suffix: "**-my/-mi**." To form a question in Turkmen, simply attach the "**-my/-mi**" suffix to the final word of a statement:

Sen Türkmen**mi**?	Are you Turkmen?
Kakaň geldi**mi**?	Did your father come?
Siz nahar iýip bolduňyz**my**?	Did you all finish eating?
Sen ýatjak**my**?	Are you going to sleep?
Ulu**my**?	(Is it) big?
Gyzykly**my**?	(Is it) interesting?

By removing the **"-my/-mi**" suffix the question becomes a statement:

Sen Türkmen.	You are Turkmen.
Kakaň geldi.	Your father came.

Note that if a question word is used (who, what, when, etc…), the **"-my/-mi**" suffix is not used:

Sen **haçan** geldiň?(~~Sen haçan geldiňmi?~~)	When did you come?
Sen düýn geldiň**mi**?	Did you come yesterday?
Ol **nireden**? (~~Ol niredenmi?~~)	Where is he from?
Ol Amerikadan**my**?	Is he from the United States?

Multiple-choice questions are constructed slightly differently. The "**-my/-mi**" suffix can be appended to the first choice, or to both:

Sen hytaý**my**, ýa-da türkmen?	Are you Chinese, or Turkmen?
Çaý gyzgyn**my**, ýa sowuk**my**?	Is the tea hot or cold?

Forming Plurals: -lar/-ler
Köplük San Goşulmasy

To pluralize nouns and verbs, Turkmen uses the **"-lar/-ler**" suffix endings, according to the vowel harmony rule.

köçe + ler streets **myhman + lar** guests

Some examples:

Pişik**ler** jüýje**ler**i iýýärler.	Cats eat chicks.
Ýaz paslynda gül**ler** açylýarlar.	Flowers open in spring.
Kakamyň işdeş**ler**i Türkiýä gitdiler.	My father's co-workers went to Turkey.

Some variations in the usage of plurals are distinct from English. Notice that in the examples below the nouns are in the singular form although they refer to many.

Men köp **kino** gördim.	I saw (have seen) many movies.
Okuwçylar **alma** iýýärler.	Students are eating apples.

Additionally, when making a statement or asking a question about quantity, the noun remains in the singular form, although it refers to many:

Bizde üç **maşyn** bar.	We have three cars.
Olarda näçe **jay** bar?	How many houses do they have?
Seniň **doganyň** barmy?	Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Also, when specifiying quantity with a number, verb endings remain in the singular form, although the verb refers to many:

Geçen hepde biziň öýümize on sany **myhman geldi**.	Last week ten guests came to our house.

Verb Overview
Işlikler Barada Umumy Maglumat

All verbs in the Turkmen language are conjugated the same, depending on their infinitive form. The infinitive form of a verb in Turkmen ends in either "-**mak**" or "-**mek**." For example, "oka**mak**" (to read/to study), "ýaz**mak**" (to write), or "iý**mek**" (to eat). In theory, the conjugations of **"-mak/-mek**" verbs are similar to verbs in a language such as Spanish, where verb infinitives have "ar," "er," or "ir" endings. However, there are no irregular verbs in Turkmen. These two endings and their corresponding conjugations are relatively identical, yet they differ slightly as a result of the vowel-harmony rule. For more information, see the above section on vowel harmony.

Like English, Turkmen has a great variety of verb tenses. Verbs in Turkmen are conjugated in plural and singular for first, second, and third persons. As in Romance languages and Russian, the subject of a sentence is often not spoken if it is obvious. Below is an overview of the main verb tenses. All examples are given for both "-**mak**" and "-**mek**" verbs. Note that the negative structures, usually formed by adding "-**ma**" or "-**me**" after the stem, are also included. Given the challenges of direct translation, we have tried to translate the meaning of verbs and sentences as closely as possible. Please note that many of the sentences in this book are examples of spoken, informal Turkmen, and that throughout the different sections of this book the targeted grammatical structure is in bold.

Present Tense
Häzirki Zaman

(This form is also commonly used as an equivalent to the English present continuous tense.)

	ýaz**mak**/iy**mek**	**spoken**	**to write/to eat**
Men	ýaz**ýaryn**/iý**ýärin**	ýaz**ýan**/iý**ýän**	I write/eat I am writing/eating
Sen	ýaz**ýarsyň**/iý**ýärsiň**	ýaz**ýaň**/iý**ýäň**	You write/eat You are writing/eating
Ol	Ýaz**ýar**/iý**ýär**	ýaz**ýa**/iý**ýä**	He writes/eats He is writing/eating
Biz	ýaz**ýarys**/iý**ýäris**	ýaz**ýas**/iý**ýäs**	We write/eat We are writing/eating
Siz	ýaz**ýarsyňyz**/iý**ýärsiňiz**	ýaz**ýaňyz**/iý**ýäňiz**	You write/eat You are writing/eating
Olar	ýaz**ýarlar**/iý**ýärler** or ýaz**ýar**/iý**ýär**	ýaz**ýalar**/iý**ýäler** or ýaz**ýar**/iý**ýär**	They write/eat They are writing/eating

Men her gün mekdebe **gidýärin**.
Meniň kakam keselhanada **işleýär**.
Sen her bäşinji gün metjide **barýarsyň**my?
Siz her gün namaz **okaýarsyňyz**my?
Obaň gyzlary haly **dokaýarlar**.

I go to school everyday.
My father works at the hospital.
Do you go to mosque every Friday?
Do you pray everyday?
The village's girls weave carpets.

The present simple tense is also used in Turkmen to speak of events in the future. It is somewhat similar to English use of the "present" continuous in statements such as, "I'm going to school tomorrow." For example:

Biz ertir toýa **gidýäris**.
Meniň jigim indiki ýyl uniwersitete **girýär**.

We are going to the party tomorrow.
My little brother is entering the university next year.

To form the negative of the present tense, add **"-ma/-me**" after the stem:

Men ejeme hat **ýazmaýaryn**.

Sen köp et **iýmeýärsiň**.
Ol kitap **okamaýar**.

Biz şähere **gitmeýäris**.

Siz çaý **içmeýärsiňiz**mi?

Olar alma **ýygmaýarlar**.

I don't write my mother letters. (I am not writing my mother a letter.)
You don't eat a lot of meat.
He doesn't read books. (He is not reading a book.)
We don't go to the city. (We are not going to the city.)
You don't drink tea? (You aren't drinking tea?)
They don't pick apples. (They are not picking apples.)

In everyday speech, however, the suffix "**-ok**" is more commonly used to negate sentences. Note that the verb tense indicated is fairly flexible, indicating present tense or recent past, or even occasionally used to talk about things in the more distant past. The chart below shows the conjugations of this form:

	al**mak**/ber**mek**	**to take/to give**
Men	al**amok**/ber**emok**	I do not take/give I have not taken/given
Sen	al**aňok**/ber**eňok**	You do not take/give You have not taken/given
Ol	al**anok**/ber**enok**	He does not take/give He has not taken/given
Biz	al**amyzok**/ber**emizok**	We do not take/give We have not taken/given
Siz	al**aňyzok**/ber**eňizok**	You do not take/give You have not taken/given
Olar	al**anoklar**/ber**enoklar**	They do not take/give They have not taken/given

Men söýgülime hat ýaz**amok**.	I have not written a letter to my sweetheart.
Myrat berilen soraga jogap ber**enok**.	Myrat isn't answering the given question.
Çagyrylan myhmanlar entek gel**enoklar**.	The invited guests still haven't arrived.
Men bir hepdeden bäri işl**ämok** sebabi keselledim.	I haven't worked for a week because I have been ill.
Men mekdepde işl**ämok**.	I don't work at the school.
Siz Aşgabatda ýaşa**ňyzok**my?	You don't live in Ashgabat?
Sen geçen aý okadyňmy? Ok**amok**.	Did you study last month? No, I didn't.

These forms can also indicate that a certain activity is generally not performed or that something is generally not true:

Men kömelek iý**emok**.	I don't eat mushrooms (as a habit).
Men çilim çek**emok**.	I don't smoke (as a habit).
Jerenler melleginde işl**änoklar**.	Jeren and her family do not work in the field.
Gyşda-da howa sowuk bol**anok**.	Even in winter the weather is not cold!

Simple Present, Emphatic Statement: -dyr/-dir

Habarlyk goşulma

Adding the **"-dyr/-dir**" suffixes to a verb or noun gives emphasis to a statement in the present tense.

Arassaçylyk – saglyk**dyr**.	Cleanliness is health.
"Talantsyz ýazyjy—agsak esger ýaly**dyr**."	The talentless writer is like a lame soldier.

Past Tense
Öten Zaman

(This form is also used and understood as an equivalent to the English Present Perfect)

	ylga**mak**/ýöre**mek**	**to run/to walk**
Men	ylga**dym**/ýöre**dim**	I ran/walked
Sen	ylga**dyň**/ýöre**diň**	You ran/walked
Ol	ylga**dy**/ýöre**di**	He ran/walked
Biz	ylga**dyk**/ýöre**dik**	We ran/walked
Siz	ylga**dyňyz**/ýöre**diňiz**	You ran/walked
Olar	ylga**dylar**/ýöre**diler**	They ran/walked

Men bu sözlügi bazardan **satyn aldym**.	I bought this dictionary from the bazaar.
Ol goňşusyna kömek **etdi**.	She helped her neighbor.
Orazyň kakasy jaý **saldy**.	Oraz's father built a house.
Sag-aman **geldiňizmi**?	Did you arrive safely?
Sen mekdepde näçe sagat **okadyň**?	How many hours did you study at school?
Okuwdan soň Rahat ýanyma **geldi**.	After school Rahat came to see me.
Sen şu kinony **gördüňmi**?	Did you see this movie? (Have you seen this movie?)

To form the negative, add "**-ma/-me**" after the stem.

Men **ýazmadym**.	I didn't write.
Sen **gitmediň**.	You didn't go.
Biz düýn **işlemedik**.	We didn't work yesterday.
Ahmet mekdepde ispan dilini **öwrenmedi**.	Ahmet did not learn Spanish at school.
Biz ot ýygdyk, ýöne öýe **getirmedik**.	We picked grass but we didn't bring it home.
Sen näme üçin öý işiňi **etmediň**?	Why didn't you do your homework?
Sen näme üçin **iýmediň**? **Halamadyňmy**?	Why didn't you eat? You didn't like it?

Action in the Distant Past: -yp/-ip
Daşlaşdyrylan Öten Zaman

Sometimes, the speaker wishes to emphasize that, from their perspective, something happened a long time ago. For this, "**-ip/-yp**" is inserted between the verb stem and the past-tense suffix. This form can also mean that the speaker is sure he or she did something in the past:

	ýat**mak**/bişir**mek**	**to sleep/to cook**
Men	ýat**ypdym**/bişir**ipdim**	I slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Sen	ýat**ypdyň**/bişir**ipdiň**	You slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Ol	ýat**ypdy**/bişir**ipdi**	He slept/cooked (a long time ago)
Biz	ýat**ypdyk**/bişir**ipdik**	We slept/cooked (a long time ago)

Siz	ýat**ypdyňyz**/bişir**ipdiňiz**	You slept/cooked (a long time ago
Olar	ýat**ypdylar**/bişir**ipdiler**	They slept/cooked (a long time ago)

Kakam bäş ýyllap direktor **bolup işläpdi**. — Father worked as a director for 5 years.
Baýramalyda uly kitaphana **bolupdy**. — In Bairamali there was a big library (a long time ago).

Biz geçen ýyl Köýtendaga **gidipdik**. — Last year, we went to Koytendag.
Saýatda baýramçylyk üçin okuwy **ýapypdylar**. — In Sayat, school closed for a holiday (a while ago).

Men rutçkamy bärde **goýupdym**. — I know I put my pencil here (but now it's gone).

To form the negative, insert "**-man/-män**" in place of the "**-yp/-ip**" after the stem in the above endings. The difference between this and the negative simple past is that "**-man/-män**" implies a more distant past. Sometimes the meaning can also be similar to past perfect:

Men **ýazmandym**. — I did not write.
Biz garaşypdyk, ýöne siz **gelmändiňiz**. — We waited, but you didn't come.
Myrat öý işini **ýerine ýetirmändi**. — Myrat hadn't done his homework.
Biz seniň hatyňa jogap **ýazmandyk**. — We did not answer your letter.
Olar şu kinony **görmändiler**. — They did not see this movie.
Biz şol güne çenli, möjekleriň eýmenç sesini **eşitmändik**. — Until that day, we had never heard the horrible sound of wolves.

Expressing Unwitnessed Actions: -ypdyr/-ipdir
Habarlyk Goşulmasynyň Hal Işlik Goşulmasy bilen Öten Zaman Aňladyşy

The following grammar is used when the speaker knows something happened, but they were not physically present at the event, or they didn't realize it until after the fact. This is also the form used when storytelling in the third person. To form the negative, replace **"-yp/-ip"** with "**-man/-män**":

	aç**mak**/geý**mek**	**to open/to put on (clothing)**
Men	aç**ypdyryn**/geý**ipdirin**	I opened/put on
Sen	aç**ypsyň**/geý**ipsiň**	You opened/put on
Ol	aç**ypdyr**/geý**ipdir**	He opened/put on
Biz	aç**ypdyrys**/geý**ipdiris**	We opened/put on
Siz	aç**ypsyňyz**/geý**ipsiňiz**	You opened/put on
Olar	aç**ypdyrlar**/geý**ipdirler**	They opened/put on

Olar bir ýere **gidipdirler**. — (I found out later) they went somewhere.
Daýym täze maşyn **alypdyr**. — My uncle bought a new car (but I found out later).

Sen **horlanypsyň**. — You've lost weight (and I didn't notice before).

Men şu gün köp **yatypdyryn**. — I slept more than I thought I would!
Biz düyn köp **içipdiris**. — We drank more than we thought we

	would!
Mugallymlar şu gün işe **gelmändir**.	The teachers apparently didn't come to work today.

Expressing surprise: "Eken"

"Eken" Kem Işligi

The word "**eken**" expresses a meaning somewhat similar to the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, but usually emphasizes that what was found out later was unexpected. It is also possible to add endings similar to the possessive endings, the exception being "**-ik**" in place of "**-imiz**" on the third person plural. These endings do not change the meaning:

Ýygnak gyzykly **eken**.	The meeting turned out to be interesting.
Gutyda nahar bar **ekeni**.	Oh, so there was food in the box. (I expected something else.)
Özüň bilýän **ekeniň**.	Oh, so you knew!
Keselhandada adam ýok **eken**.	There aren't any people in the hospital. (I thought there would be).
Biz çagakak köp uruşýan **ekenik**.	We fought a lot when we were kids (and someone else told us about it later).

In combination with a verb, the relative clause endings are added and the verb is followed by the word "**eken**":

Ol türkmençe gowy gepleý**än eken**.	(It turns out) he speaks Turkmen well.
Ol düýn Aşgabada git**jek eken**.	(I found out later) he was going to go to Ashgabat yesterday.
Olar bu gün gel**en eken**! Men olar ertir geler öýtdim.	Oh, they came today! I thought they would come tomorrow.

Also note that this word is used in third-person storytelling along with the -ypdyr/-ipdir form, in which case it does not necessarily indicate surprise.

Past Conditions

Öten zamanyň "-dy/-di" goşumlasynyň beýleki söz toparlary bilen ulanylyşy

Because there is no true equivalent for the verb "to be" in Turkmen, the appropriate simple past-tense suffix is simply added to the end of the noun, adjective, or place to indicate a past situation.

Men öň okuwçy**dym**.	I was a student.
Sen geçen ýyl okuwçy**dyň**my?	Were you a pupil last year?
Biz öň çaga**dyk**.	We were children before.
Ol 2001-nji ýylda firmanyň başlygy**dy**.	He was the company's boss in 2001.
Siz öň tikinçi**diňiz**mi?	Were you a seamstress before?
Olar akylly**dylar**.	They were smart.
Meniň tigirim gyzyl**dy**.	My bicycle was red.

When referring to a place, "**-da/-de**" must be added as well:

Zöhre geçen hepde Lebapda**dy**.	Zohre was in Lebap last week.
Kakam kuhnýa**da däldi**.	Dad wasn't in the kitchen.
Düýn ýagyş yagan wagty men bazar**dadym**.	Yesterday when it was raining, I was at the bazaar.

Future Tense
Geljek Zaman

Definite Future
Mälim Geljek Zaman

	oka**mak**/bil**mek**	**to read/to know**
Men	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	I will read/know
Sen	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	You will read/know
Ol	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	He will read/know
Biz	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	We will read/know
Siz	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	You will read/know
Olar	oka**jak**/bil**jek**	They will read/know

This future form is generally only used to make statements about oneself, to make negative statements, to ask questions about wants, or to make statements about things others say. For all other statements about the future, use the indefinite future tense outlined in the next section.

Men indiki aý, nesip bolsa, Ispaniýa **gitjek**.	Next month I will, God willing, go to Spain.
Çaý **içjekmi**?	Will you (do you want to) drink tea?
Merjen saňa jaň **etjek** diýdi.	Merjen said she would call you.
Men Çary bilen pökgi **oýnajak**.	I will play ball with Chary.
Oraz maňa**:"Hat ýazjak"** diýdi.	Oraz said he would write me a letter.
Biz size gezmäge **geljek**.	We will come to visit you all.
Siz indiki ýyl Turkiýä **gitjekmi**?	Will you go to Turkey next year?

To form the negative, add "**däl**" after the verb:

Men **ýazjak däl**.	I will not write.
Sen **gitjek däl**mi?	Won't you go?
Ýok, ol **:"Geljek däl"** diýdi.	No, he said he will not come.
Biz täze ýyl baýramyny öýde **bellejek däl**.	We won't celebrate New Year's at home.
Biz ýaryşa **gitjek däl**.	We won't go to the competition.
Çagalar bizi**:"Diňlejek däl"** diýdiler.	The children said they will not listen to us.

Indefinite Future
Nämälim Geljek Zaman

	dur**mak**/gör**mek**	**to stand/to see**
Men	dur**aryn**/gör**erin**	I will (probably) stand/see
Sen	dur**arsyň**/gör**ersiň**	You will (probably) stand/see

Ol	dur**ar/**gör**er**	He will (probably) stand/see
Biz	dur**arys/**gör**eris**	We will (probably) stand/see
Siz	dur**arsyňyz/**gör**ersiniz**	You will (probably) stand/see
Olar	dur**arlar/**gör**erler**	They will (probably) stand/see

The indefinite future tense is used for speaking in the third person and making statements (as opposed to asking questions) in the second person. It is also used in the first person as frequently as the definite future tense, the difference being that the definite future tense typically implies that it is one's own desire to do something. Using the indefinite future tense in the first person implies that one will do something for some other reason. Degree of certainty of a statement in the indefinite future tense varies according to context and intonation.

Men täze köýnek almaga **giderin**.	I'll go to buy a new dress.
Biz bazardan gyzyl gulakhalka **alarys**.	We will buy gold earrings from the bazaar.
Ol çagalara nahar **berer**.	She will feed the children.
Jeren jorap **örer**mi?	Will Jeren knit a sock?
Men sen **gelersiň** diýip, umyt edýärin.	I hope you'll come.
Kakam sagat 5-de işden **geler**.	My father will come from work at 5.
Şu gün ejemiň doglan güni we biz oňa sowgat **bereris**.	Today is my mother's birthday and we will give her a present.
Ertir Myrat bilen Gunça meniň ýanyma **gelerler**.	Tomorrow Myrat and Guncha will come to me (will come here).
Indiki 5-nji gün **maslahatlaşarys**.	Next Friday, we'll consult each other.

To form the negative, add "**-ma/-me**" after the stem, except in the third person, where "**-maz/-mez**" is used instead.

Men **ýazmaryn**.	I (probably) won't write.
Sen **gitmersiň**	You (probably) won't go.
Ol **nahar bişirmez**.	He (probably) won't cook.
Biz **kömek etmeris**.	We won't help.
Siz ertir bazara **gitmersiňiz**.	You won't go to the market.
Olar **gelmezler**, sebäbi howa sowuk.	They won't come, because the weather is cold.

Expressing Intended Action in the Past
Hyýallanmagyň Öten Zamanda Aňladylyşy

There are two ways to express intended but unrealized actions in the past. The first is more definite and uses a construction that is equivalent to saying "I was going to do something, but I couldn't/didn't." This construction is formed by adding the personal past-tense ending to the definite future conjugation "**-jak/-jek**" of the verb, as follows:

	sana**mak/**seret**mek**	**to count/to look**
Men	sana**jakdym/**seret**jekdim**	I was going to count/to look

Sen	sana**jakdyň**/seret**jekdiň**	You were going to count/to look
Ol	sana**jakdy**/seret**jekdi**	She was going to count/to look
Biz	sana**jakdyk**/seret**jekdik**	We were going to count/to look
Siz	sana**jakdyňyz**/seret**jekdiňiz**	You were going to count/to look
Olar	sana**jakdylar**/seret**jekdiler**	They were going to count/to look

Men şähere **gitjekdim**, ýöne ýetişmedim. — I was going to go to the city, but I didn't make it.

Men şol kitaby **okajakdym**, emma rus dilinde eken. — I was going to read that book, but it turns out it's in Russian.

Biz tort **bişirjekdik**, ýöne şekerimiz gutaran eken. — We were going to bake a cake, but it seems we'd run out of sugar.

Biziň mugallymymyz bizden synag **aljakdy** welin, ol pikirini üýtgetdi. — Our teacher was going to give us a test, but he changed his mind.

Ol bize bir süýji nahar **bişirjekdi**, ýöne gaz sönüpdir we ol bir ýere gitmeli boldy. — She was going to cook us a delicious meal, but the gas went out and she had to go somewhere.

Bazara giden bolsam, sumka satyn **aljakdym**. — If I had gone to the bazaar, I would have bought a bag.

To form the negative, the personal past-tense ending is added to the definite future, negative conjugation of the verb. Recall that in the definite future tense, the negative is formed by placing the word "**däl**" after the "**-jak/-jek**" form of the verb. So in this case, the personal past-tense ending is added to "**däl**." This construction expresses that someone was not going to do something, but did indeed do it. For example:

Men **gitjek däldim**, emma mugallymym: "Hökman gitmeli" diýdi — I wasn't going to go, but my teacher said "You must go."

Ol **berjek däldi**, ýöne men haýyş etdim. — He wasn't going to give it, but I requested.

Sen düýn wagtynda işe gelen bolsaň, men saňa **käýejek däldim**. — If you had come on time yesterday, I wouldn't have scolded you.

The second way to express unrealized action in the past is to form a construction that is similar to the English modal "would." This construction is generally dependent on a conditional "if" clause. For example, "If …, I would have…" It is formed by adding the third-person singular indefinite future ending "**-ar/-er**" + the personal past-tense ending to the verb stem, as shown in the following chart. Because this form is generally used with a conditional "if" clause, it might be more useful to study this section in conjunction with the following section on conditionals.

	aýt**mak**/gül**mek**	**to say/to laugh**
Men	aýd**ardym**/gül**erdim**	I would have said/laughed
Sen	aýd**ardyň**/gül**erdiň**	You would have said/laughed
Ol	aýd**ardy**/gül**erdi**	She would have said/laughed
Biz	aýd**ardyk**/gül**erdik**	We would have said/laughed
Siz	aýd**ardyňyz**/gül**erdiňiz**	You would have said/laughed
Olar	aýd**ardylar**/gül**erdiler**	They would have said/laughed

Eger-de men bir käse çay içen bolsam, **gijä galardym**.	If I had drunk one cup of tea, I would have been late.
Eger irräk turan bolsam, ertirlik **edinerdim**.	If I had gotten up earlier, I would have eaten breakfast.
Eger rusça bilen bolsaň, onda şu kitaba **düşünerdiň**.	If you had known Russian, you would have understood this book.
Eger maşyn bolan bolsa, onda size **giderdik**.	If there had been a car, we would have gone to your house.
Eger kompýuter ulanyp bilen bolsadym, Internet **öwrenerdim**.	If I had known how to use computers, I would have learned the Internet.
Men nahar **bişirerdim**, emma häzir şähere gitjek.	I would have cooked, but I am going to the city now.
Biz size **kömekleşerdik** welin, ýaltanýarys.	We would have helped you, but we are lazy.

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to the negative form of the third-person singular, indefinite future tense "**-maz/-mez.**"

Eger işimiz bolsady, biziň içimiz **gysmazdy**.	If we had had work, we wouldn't have been bored.
Eger-de uçaryň biledini alyp bilen bolsadyk, onda maşynly **gitmezdik**.	If we had been able to buy a plane ticket, we wouldn't have gone by car.
Ol Turkmenistana **gelmezdi**, ýöne ony iberdiler.	He wouldn't have gone to Turkmenistan, but they sent him.

Anticipated Action: -jak/-jek bolmak
Göz Öňünde Tutulýan Hereket

A structure involving the future tense and "**bolmak**" is used in a similar way to the English phrase "going to." The first verb must be in the future definite form (**-jak/-jek**) and "**bolmak**" must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Sen **ýatjak bolýarsyň**my?	Are you going to go to sleep?
Biz saňa **jaň etjek bolýarys**.	We're going to call you.
Garaşyň, men **nahar iýjek bolýaryn**.	Wait, I'm going to eat.
Men ol kinony giç bolsa-da **görjek bolýaryn**.	I'm going to watch the movie, even if it's late.
Merjen saňa bir zat **aýtjak bolýar**.	Merjen is going to tell you something.
Goňsylarymyz deňize **gitjek bolýarlar**.	Our neighbors are going to go to the sea.
Ejem dagy gatlama **bişirjek bolýarlar**.	My mother and the others are going to cook gatlama (sweet oily bread).

A related stucture using "**-jak/-jek**" with "**bolmak**" and the continuous action verbs **otyr**, **ýatyr**, **dur** and **ýör** communicates the idea of being about to do something.

Men çörek **bisirjek bolup durun**.	I'm about to bake some bread.

Ol kitap **okajak bolup otyr**.	He's about to read a book.
Biz aeroporda **gitjek bolup durus**.	We're about to go to the airport.
Sen tort **iýjek bolup otyrdyňmy**?	Were you about to eat a cake?

Future Conditions
Geljek Zaman

To speak of the future condition of a subject, "**bolmak**" is used as a helping verb:

Men suratçy **boljak**.	I will be an artist.
Ol lukman **bolar**.	She will be a doctor.
Olar akylly **bolar**.	They will be smart.
Sen toýda owadan **boljak**my?	Will you be beautiful at the toy?
Sen ertir Serdarda **bolarsyň**my?	Will you be in Serdar tomorrow?
Ertir bazarda balyk **bolar**my?	Will there be fish at the bazaar tomorrow?

Relative Clauses
Ortak işlikler

Relative clauses are formed in Turkmen simply by using verb suffixes based on the tense and vowel harmony of the verb. "Who," "which," and "that," commonly used in English to form relative clauses, are not used as such in Turkmen. In the section below, the relative clauses are bolded in both languages, in order to better understand their usage. Unlike in English, relative clauses always proceed the noun being modified.

Present Tense
Häzirki zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the present tense are formed by adding the suffixes "**-ýan/-ýän**" to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verbs, respectively:

ýaz**ýan** dostum	my friend who is writing
gel**ýän** adamlar	the people who are coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Aşgabatdan gelýän adamlar biziň kafemizde naharlanýarlar. *Ashgabat-from coming people our cafe- (they) eat.*	**The people who are coming from Ashgabat** usually eat at our cafe.
Kitap ýazýan dostum Türkmenabatda ýaşaýar. *Book writing friend-my Turkmenabat-in lives*	**My friend who is writing a book** lives in Charjew.
Bilim bölümi **türkmen dilini okadýan mugallymlary** ýygnady.	The Education deparment gathered the **teachers who teach Turkmen**.
Parahatçylyk Korpusy meýletinçileri okatmak üçin **türkmençe oňat bilýän adamlary** saýlaýar.	Peace Corps chooses **people who know Turkmen well** to teach the volunteers.
Halaçdan getirilyän erikler iň süýji.	**The apricots which are brought from Halach** are the sweetest.
Kitap ýazýan aýallar örän akylly.	**Women who write books** are very smart.
Meniň ýatýan krowatym köne.	The bed where I sleep is old.

The negative form of relative clauses in the present tense is formed by adding"**-maýan/-meýän**" to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verbs, respectively:

ýaz**maýan** dostum	my friend who isn't writing
gel**meýän** adamlar	the people who aren't coming

Sentence structure is as follows:

Arak içmeýän adam, arak içýän adamlar bilen oturmagy halamaýar.	**The man who doesn't drink vodka** doesn't like to sit with the men who drink vodka.
Dutar çalmaýan bagşy biziň obamyza toýa	**The singer who doesn't play the dutar**

geldi.
Men **et iýmeyän meýletinçilere** kädili nahar berjek.
Biz **haly dokamaýan gyzlara** haly dokamagy öwretdik.

came to our village for a wedding.
I will give a squash dish **to the volunteers who don't eat meat**.
We taught **the girls who don't weave carpets** how to weave carpets.

Past Tense

Öten zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the past tense are formed by adding "**-an/-en/-n**" to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verbs, respectively:

ýaz**an** dostum	my friend who wrote
gel**en** adamlar	the people who came

Note that while this is a past tense form, it often indicates present tense. Sentence structure is as follows:

Tejenden gelen adamlar köp iýdiler. *Tejen-from-came-people-much-(they) ate*	**The people who came from Tejen** ate a lot.
Bu kitaby okanlar oňa gowy diýdiler. *this-book-read (plural)-it-good-(they) said*	**Those who read this book** said it's good.
Saýlanan okuwçylar bir aý lagere gatnaşarlar.	**The students who were chosen** will participate in the camp for one month.
Isläп wagtyň gelip bilersiň.	You can come when you want.

The negative form of relative clauses in the past tense is formed by adding "**-madyk/-medik**" to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verb, respectively:

ýaz**madyk** dostum	my friend who didn't write
gel**medik** adamlar	the people who didn't come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Toýa barmadyk adamlar, şol toý barada soradylar.	**The people who didn't go to the wedding** asked about it.
Düzmäni oňat ýazmadyk okuwçylar, pes baha aldylar.	**The students who didn't write the composition well** received low marks.
Kinony görmedik dostum, kinonyň nähili bolandygyny sorady.	**My friend who didn't see the movie** asked how it was.

Future Tense

Geljek zaman ortak işligi

Relative clauses in the future tense are formed by adding the "**-jak/-jek**" endings to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verbs, respectively:

ýaz**jak** dostum	my friend who will write

gel**jek** adamlar	the people who will come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Biziň klasymyzy okatjak mugallym Eýrandan geldi. *our-class-will teach-teacher-Iran-from-came*	**The teacher who will teach our class** came from Iran.
Gökdepä gitjek okuwçylar obanyň duralgasynda garaşyp durlar. *Gokdepe-to-will go-students-village's-stop-at-waiting*	**The students who will go to Gökdepe** are waiting at the village's stop.
Indiki äý geljek kinolar gymmadrak bolarlar.	**The movies that will come next month** will be more expensive.
Ejemden geljek posylkada köp süýji bolar.	There will be a lot of candy in **the package that will come from my mom**.

The negative form of relative clauses in the future tense is formed by adding "**-majak/-mejek**" to the stems of "**-mak/-mek**" verbs, respectively:

ýaz**majak** dostum	my friend who will not write
gel**mejek** adamlar	the people who will not come

Sentence structure is as follows:

Iýilmejek naharlary pişige bermeli.	**Food that will not be eaten** should be given to the cat.
Taýýarlanmajak okuwçylar çykyşa gatnaşmaly däl.	**Students who aren't going to prepare** mustn't participate in the performance.
Suwa düşmejek adamlar hem howuza barypdyrlar.	**The people who won't swim** also went to the swimming pool.
Namaz okamajak adamlar metjidiň daşynda dursunlar.	**The people who will not pray** should stay outside the mosque.

Relative Clauses in the Accusative Case
Ortak Işlikleriň Aýyklaýjy Agza Bolup Gelşi

Sometimes, the noun being modified is not the subject of the relative clause, but its direct object, as in "the book that I read." To convey this in Turkmen, the appropriate possessive suffix is added to the noun being modified. The "owner" of the modified noun may also be included, in genitive case, but is not necessary. The passive-voice suffix can also be used when the subject is unimportant or unknown.

Okan kitaplar**ym**y kitaphanada goýdum, ýöne okalmadyk kitaplar meniň klasymda.	I put the books that I read in the library, but the books that weren't read are in my classroom.
Ulanmajak un**uňyz**y maňa berseňizläň.	Please, give me the flour that you aren't going to use.
Seniň okadýan okuwçylar**yň** ýaman samsykdyr!	The students that you teach are so stupid!
Meniň iýen kökä**m** gaty süýjüdi.	The cookie that I ate was delicious.

Relative Clauses without Nouns
Beýleki Söz Toparlaryň Atlaşmagy (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)

Turkmen has a looser grammatical structure than English, in that relative clauses do not always require a noun to modify. Usually, the implied subject is a group of people.

Arassalary goýmaly, **hapalary** ýuwmaly.	You should put away (**the ones**) **that are clean**, and wash (**the ones) that are dirty**.
Ulular işlesinler, **kiçiler** bolsa olara kömekleşsinler.	Let (**the ones**) **who are big** work, and let (**the ones**) **who are small** help them.
Daşary ýurtdan gelýänler şäheriň owadan ýerlerine gezelenç edyärler. *(outside-country-from-come-city's-beautiful-places-to-take walks.)*	(**The people**) **who come from foreign countries** take walks to the city's beautiful places.
Türkmenistanda ýaşanlar onuň taryhyny öwrendiler.	(**The people**) **who lived in Turkmenistan** learned about its history.
Uniwersitete girjekler tomusda ekzamen tabşyrarlar.	(**The people**) **who will enter the university** will take an exam in the summer.

Relative Clauses with "-ky/-ki"
"-ky,-ki" bilen Sypat Ýasalyş (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)

The suffixes "**-ky/-ki**" act as adjective clauses do in English. They are similar in meaning to the English "from," "in," or "at," as in the following examples:

Men şol **kinodaky** gyzy halamok.	I don't like the girl in that film.
Tejendäki mugallymlar biziň ýygnagymyza gelýärler.	The teachers from Tejen are coming to our meeting.
Aşgabatdaky çörek biziňkiden gowy.	The bread in Ashgabat is better than ours.
Öýüňizdäkilere köp salam aýt!	Say a big hello to those at your home.
10-njy "A" **synpdaky** okuwçylaryň tertibi gowy däl.	The pupils of the 10th "A" class are not well behaved.
Eliňdäkiňi aýyr!	Get rid of what's in your hand!
Parkyň **içindäki** gazly suw şäherimiziň iň gowy suwy.	The soda inside the park is the best in our city.
Mekdebiň **ýanyndaky** howluda toý bar.	There's a party in the yard next to the school.
Men şu **köýnekdäki** ýakany gowy görýärin.	I like the embroidered collar of this dress.

While in the above examples the "**-ky/-ki**" ending works in combination with the locative case, with some time words in Turkmen, the locative case "**-da/-de**" suffix is not used. These words include "aý," "ýyl," "gün," seasons, times of the day like "agşam" and "irden," "düýn," and "ertir." However "ýyl" and "aý" can be used in the locative case if a specific dated year or month is indicated ("2001-nji ýyldaky" or "Nowruz aýyndaky"). Otherwise, add only the "**-ky/-ki**" part of the ending.

Öten ýyl hasyl gowudy. Öten **ýylky** hasyl bu **ýylkydan** köpdi.	Last year, the harvest was good. The harvest last year was bigger than this year's.
Düýn agşam myhman geldi. **Agşamky** gelen myhman irden çaý içmedi.	Last night a guest came. The guest who came last night didn't drink tea this morning.
Çagalar **tomusky** dynç alyşda lagerlere gitdiler.	The children went to camps during the summer break.

Relative Clauses with "-ly/-li"

"-ly,-li" bilen Sypat Ýasalyş (ortak işlikler bilen manydaş)

In English, sometimes a preposition such as "with" or "in" is used to form an adjective clause. The equivalent structure in Turkmen uses the adjectival suffix "**-ly/-li**" instead of a preposition:

Eli žurnally okuwçy ökde.	The student with the magazine in his hand is bright.
Gyzyl köýnekli aýal meniň ejem.	The woman in the red dress is my mother.
Sumkasy köp kitaply meýlitinçi her gün mekdebimize gelýär.	The volunteer with a lot of books in his bag comes to our school every day.
Bir kostum-balakly adam seni sorady.	Some man in dress pants asked for you.

Expressing Intention
Işligiň hyýallanma formasy

These suffixes indicate an intended action. They can be roughly translated to "to intend to."

	horlan**mak**/semret**mek**	**to lose weight/to gain weight**
Men	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	I intend to lose weight/gain weight
Sen	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	You intend to lose weight/gain weight
Ol	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	He intends to lose weight/gain weight
Biz	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	We intend to lose weight/gain weight
Siz	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	You intend to lose weight/gain weight
Olar	horlan**makçy**/semre**mekçi**	They intend to lose weight/gain weight

Men ertir şähere **gitmekçi**.	I intend to go to the city tomorrow.
Biz şu ýyl diňe bäşlik **almakçy**.	This year we intend to get only fives.
Jon ýazyjy **bolmakçy**.	Jon intends to be a writer.
Kakam öýe telefon **çekdirmekçi**.	My father intends to install a telephone at home.

To form the negative, add "**däl**" after the verb.

Men **ýazmakçy däl**.	I don't intend to write.
Men **gitmekçi däl**.	I don't intend to go.
Men Amerika gidenimden soň instituta **girmekçi däl**.	I don't intend to enter the university after I return to the USA.

To express that an action was intended in the past, add the personal past-tense endings to the "**-çy/-çi**" suffixes:

Men **okamakçydym**.	I intended to read.
Men **iýmekçidim**.	I intended to eat.
Ol doňdurma **iýmekçidi**, ýöne tapmady.	He intended to eat ice cream, but he didn't find any.

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense endings to "däl."

Men **iýmekçi däldim**.	I did not intend to eat.
Ol **okamakçy däldi**.	He did not intend to read.
Biz wagtymyzy **biderek geçermekçi däldik**.	We didn't intend to waste our time.
Olar **ýatmakçy däldi**, ýöne ýadap geldiler.	They didn't intend to sleep, but they came home tired.

Imperative Forms/Commands
Işligiň Buýruk Formasy

Requests
Haýyş sözler

gaýrat etmek	to do what one can; to do one's best
haýyş	request; please

Informal Commands
Resmi däl buýruk
verb stem + no endings

(Sen) **Iý**!	Eat!
Jahan, hatyňy gowy **ýaz**!	Jahan, write your penmanship well!
Oka! **Öwren**! **Döret**!	Study! Learn! Create!
Myrat, **gaýrat et**, dükana **git**!	Myrat, do what you can, go to the store.
Dünýä, sözlemiňi ýalňyşsyz **düz**!	Dunya, compose your sentence without mistakes!
Umyt, toýdan irräk **gel**!	Umyt, come back from the wedding a little early!

Formal or Plural Commands
Resmi buýruk
verb stem + formal ending (**-yň/-iň/-ň**)

(Siz) **Okaň**!	Read!
Çagalar, öý işini **ýazyň**!	Children, do your homework!
Çagalar, sapaklaryňyzy gowy **okaň**!	Children, study your lessons well!
Iňlis dilini gowy **öwreniň**!	Learn English well!
Yzyňyzdan gapyny **ýapyň**!	Close the door behind you!
Telewizory **açmaň**!	Don't turn on the TV!
Hapa jorap **geýmäň**!	Don't wear dirty socks!

Less Formal, Polite Commands
Resmi, mylakatly buýruk
verb stem + (-**sana/-sene**)

Myrada ýazan hatymy **okasana**!	Please read the letter I wrote to Myrat!
Ertir öýe **gelsene**!	Please come to my home tomorrow!
Maksadyň toýuna täze köýnek **alsana**!	Please buy a new dress for Maksat's wedding.
Öýdäki güllere **seretsene**!	Please look after the flowers at home.
Täzelik bolsa **aýtsana**!	If you have news, please tell me!
Ony **öwmesene**!	Don't flatter him!
Palow **iýmesene**!	Don't eat the palow!

Formal, Polite Request
Resmi Haýyş
verb stem + (-**yp/-ip/-p + bersene**)

Okap bersene.	Read for us, please.
Aman, bu haty **ýazyp bersene**.	Aman, please write this letter for me.
Tawusy telefona **çagyryp bersene**.	Please call Tawus to the phone for me.
Tarkanyň aýdymlaryny **ýazyp bermesene**.	Please don't record Tarkan's songs for him.
Eje, oňa şol ýaşyl köwüşi **alyp bermesene**.	Mom, please don't buy those green shoes for him.

Formal, Polite Commands
Resmi Mylakatly Haýyş
verb stem + (-**saňyzlaň/-seňizläň**)

Okasaňyzlaň!	Please read!
Hemmäňiz toýa **gelseňizläň**!	All of you, please come to the wedding!
Gürrüňiňizi **goýsaňyzlaň**!	Please stop talking!
Biziň bilen Köýtendaga **gitseňizläň**!	Please go with us to the Koytendag mountains.
Eje, meni toýa **goýberseňizläň**!	Mom, please let me go to the wedding!

Encouraging Commands
Goldaw Beriji Buýruk
verb stem + (**-ber/-beriň/-bersin**)

Okaber. (**Okaberiň**.)	Go ahead and read.
Mugallym, siz **gepläberiň**.	Teacher, keep speaking.
Siz **gidiberiň**, men yzyňyzdan bararyn.	You go ahead and go, I'll be right behind you.
Sen ejem bilen **oturyber** men Jemala jaň edeýin.	Go ahead and sit with my mother while I call Jemal.
Sähra **iýibersin**.	Let Sahra keep eating.

Asking For Permission
Rugsat soramak
The following forms translate not as commands, but more as requests or expressions of "let me" or "do you want me to" They are formed by adding "**-aýyn/-eýin**" to the verb stem.

Men täze sözleri **ýazaýyn**.	Let me write the new words.
Men **geçeýin**.	Let me pass.
Okaýyn.	Let me read. (I'll read)
Rugsat berseňiz men **gideýin**.	If you give permission, I'll go.
Men tagtada sözlem **düzeýin**mi?	Do you want me to write a sentence on the board?

Men öňüne **geçeýin**mi?	Do you want me to move to the front?
Men bu banany **iýeýin**mi?	Do you want me to eat this banana?

A politer version of this form is made by adding the suffix "-**la/-le**":

Çaý **guýaýyn-la**.	Please, let me pour (you some) tea.
Galam **alaýyn-la**.	Please, let me take the pencil.
Gepleşeli-le.	Please, let's talk.
Nahar **bişireliň-le**.	Please, let's cook.

The following examples translate as "may I." They are formed by adding "**-aýaýyn/-äýeýin**" to the verb stem.

Şu gazeti azajyk **okaýaýyn**?	May I read this newspaper a little bit?
Zöhre, men **gidäýeýin**?	Zohra, may I go?
Giräýeýin?	May I come in?

For other means of asking permission, see the sections on simple conditionals and expressing uncertainty.

Making Suggestions

Teklip Etmek

The following examples translate as "let us." They are formed by adding "**-aly/-eli**" (for two people) and "**-alyň/-eliň**" (for more than two) to the verb stem.

Bol, kitap **okaly**!	Let's read a book! (for two person).
Boluň goşgy **ýazalyň**!	Let's write a poem! (for more than two).
Ýör nahar **iýeli**!	Let's eat!
Yörüň, **gideli**!	Let's go!
Okalyň!	Let's read!
Geliň **aýdym aýdalyň**!	Let´s sing a song!
Gel, **tans oýnaly**!	Let's dance!

To form the negative, add "**-ma/-me**" after the stem:

Hat **ýazmaly**. (The second "**a**" is long.)	Let's not write a letter.
Çay **içmäli**.	Let's not drink tea.
Bazara **gitmäliň**.	Let's not go to the bazaar.
Buz gaýmak **iýmäli**.	Let's not eat ice cream.
Okamalyň!	Let's not read!

Expressing Third-Person Desires
Üçünji Ýöňkemede Buýruk Bermek

The following forms are in the third person and express urges or wishes. This form is used quite frequently in making toasts. They can be translated roughly as "would that," "let him/her/it," or "may he/she/it." They are formed by adding "**-syn/-sin**" or "**-synlar/-sinler**" to the verb stem:

Ol **ýazsyn**.	Let him write.
Ol **geçsin**.	Let him pass.
Merede aýt, maňa hat **ýazsyn**.	Tell Meret to write me a letter.
Okuwa **girsin**.	May he enter school.
Saglyk **bolsun**.	May there be health.
Şatlyk **bolsun**.	May there be happiness.
Gutly **bolsun**.	Congratulations!
Nesip **etsin**.	Congratulations!
Salam getiren **sag bolsun**.	Thank you for passing on their hello.
Olar **ýazsynlar**.	Let them write.
Olar **geçsinler**.	Let them pass.
Sag-aman **barsynlar**!	May they arrive safely!

To make the negative forms, add "**-ma/-me**" after the stems, according to vowel harmony:

Ol **ýazmasyn**.	May he not write.
Olar **gitmesinler**.	May they not go.
Ýagyş **ýagmasyn**!	Would that it not rain!
Jeren, myhmanlar **gitmesinler**.	Jeren; let the guests not go.
Uruş **bolmasyn**.	May there not be war.

Obligatory Forms
Işligiň Hökmanlyk Formasy

As a general rule, the "**-maly/-meli**" ending can be translated as "should," "ought to," "must," "have to," or "need to." However, adding "**hökman**" to the sentence gives emphasis and indicates that the action is absolutely necessary.

Men **okamaly**.	I should read.
Men **hökman okamaly**.	I must read.

	sora**mak**/işle**mek**	**to ask/to work**
Men	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	I must ask/work
Sen	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	You must ask/work
Ol	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	He must ask/work
Biz	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	We must ask/work
Siz	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	You must ask/work
Olar	sora**maly** /işle**meli**	They must ask/work

Olar şu gün biziń öýmize **gelmeli**.	They should be coming to our house tonight.
Men ertirine juýjelerime **seretmeli**.	In the morning, I have to look after my chicks.
Dostlar birek-birege **kömek etmeli**.	Friends should help each other.
Tagta etrabynda köp gülleri **ekmeli**.	In Tagta Etrap, many flowers need to be planted.
Çagalar multifilm **görmeli**.	Children should watch cartoons
Sagat 6-da Göwher jigisini çagalar bagyndan **almaly**.	At 6 o'clock Gowher must pick up her sister from kindergarten.
Mugallymlar ýylda iki gezek açyk sapak **bermeli**.	Teachers must give open lessons twice a year.
Myradyň kakasy maşynyny **ýuwmaly**.	Myrat's father has to wash his car.
Sen öňünden **aýdaýmaly** ekeniň.	You really should have told me beforehand.
Men ejeme hat **yazmaly**.	I need to write letter to my Mom.

To form the negative, add "**däl**" after the verb.

Men **ýazmaly däl**.	I must (should) not write.
Çagalar köp süýji **iýmeli däl**.	Children shouldn't eat a lot of sweets.
Okuwçylar sapakdan rugsatsyz **galmaly däl**.	Students mustn't miss lessons without permission.
Oglanlar çilim **çekmeli däl**.	Boys shouldn't smoke.
Biz giç **turmaly däl**.	We shouldn't get up late.
Sapakda hat **alyşmaly däl**.	You mustn't pass notes in your lessons.
Kompýutoryň öňünde köp **oturmaly däl**.	You shouldn't sit too long in front of the computer.

Positive Obligatory Actions in the Past
Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (barlyk)

It is also possible to use the "**-maly/-meli**" endings in the past-tense, with a resultant meaning similar to "should have." If the appropriate past-tense ending is added to the "**-maly/-meli**" form of a verb, the implication is that the action should have been done, but was not actually performed.

	otur**mak**/öwreniş**mek**	**to sit/to get used to**
Men	otur**malydym**/öwreniş**melidim**	I should have sat/gotten used to
Sen	otur**malydyň**/öwreniş**melidiň**	You should have sat/gotten used to
Ol	otur**malydy**/öwreniş**melidi**	He should have sat/gotten used to
Biz	otur**malydyk**/öwreniş**melidik**	We should have sat/gotten used to
Siz	otur**malydyňyz**/öwreniş**melidiňiz**	You should have sat/gotten used to
Olar	otur**malydy(lar)**/öwreniş**melidi(ler)**	They should have sat/gotten used to

Men ýaňky adam bilen **duşuşmalydym**, ýöne gidip bilmedim.	I needed to meet with that guy, but I wasn't able to go.
Ol Murgaba **gelmelidi**, emma Mara gitdi.	He was supposed to come to Murgap, but he went to Mary.
Olar şu gün **duşuşmalydylar**.	They were supposed to meet each other today.

Negative Obligatory Actions in the Past
Öten Zamanda Hökmanlyk Aňladylyşy (ýokluk)

To form the negative, add the personal past-tense ending to "**däl**" and place it after the verb. Meaning is similar to "shouldn't have;" the implication is that something should not have been done, but it was:

Men **işlemeli däldim**.	I shouldn't have worked (but I did).
Ol **ýazmaly däldi**.	He shouldn't have written (but he did).
Biz **gitmeli däldik**.	We shouldn't have gone (but we did).
Men işden gijä **galmaly däldim**, ýöne ýetişmedim.	I shouldn't have been late to work, but I didn't make it (on time).
Sen onuň üstünden **gülmeli däldiň**.	You shouldn't have laughed at him.

Conversely, if the verb "**bolmak**" is conjugated in the past-tense and placed after the "**-maly/-meli**" form of a verb, the implication is that the subject did not want to do something, but had to do so.

Men **okamaly boldum**.	I had to read (and I did).
Ol keselhanada **ýatmaly boldy**.	He had to sleep in the hospital.
Men şu gün şähere **gitmeli boldum**.	I had to go to the city today.
Serdar kakasynyň maşynyny **ýuwmaly boldy**.	Serdar had to wash his father's car.

The negation of this form, which is equivalent to the English "didn't have to," is constructed by inserting "**-ma/-me**" after the stem of the verb "**bolmak**."

Myhmanlar gelmedi, şonuň üçin köp nahar **bişirmeli bolmadym**.	The guests didn’t come, therefore I didn’t have to cook much food.
Ol Mara bilet **satyn almaly bolmady**.	She didn’t have to buy a ticket to Mary.
Biz Rusça **öwrenmeli bolmadyk**.	We didn’t have to learn Russian.
Siz **terjime etmeli bolmadyňyz**.	You didn’t have to translate it.

Conditionals:
Işligiň Şert Formasy

In English, there are three kinds of conditionals:
1. Conditionals that are true in the present or future:
   If I write a letter to her, **she will write** back.
2. Conditionals that are untrue in the present or future:
   If I wrote a letter to her, **she would write** back.
3. Conditionals that are untrue in the past:
   If I had written a letter to her, **she would have written** back.

However, determining which of the above to use is often less a matter of meaning than of grammatical flow. For instance, the actual difference between the first and second statements is largely contextual; the second statement simply emphasizes the fact that the "if" clause is less likely to be true. In Turkmen, conditionals are more freeform; there is no required association of tense between the "if" and "then" clauses. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to give exact translations that also preserve the intended meaning of the speaker. In the section below, directly translated parts are thus italicized, while implied meaning is in parentheses.

Note that in the examples below "**eger**" and "**eger-de**" are synonymous. "**Haçan-da**" (similar to the English "when") may be used almost interchangeably with "eger" and "eger-de." These words are used in most of the examples here, but are often omitted in speech and writing because the conjugation of the verb is sufficient to indicate conditionality.

Simple Conditionals
Ýönekeý Şert Forma

The simplest conditional form in Turkmen is generally similar in meaning to the first conditional form in English. It can also be used for generalizations, as in, "If I oversleep, my father yells at me," where the statement addresses not one single incident, but a habitual event.

	ýuw**mak**/süpür**mek**	**to wash/to wipe**
Men	ýuw**sam**/süpür**sem**	If I wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuw**saň**/süpür**seň**	If you wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuw**sa**/süpür**se**	If she wash/wipe...
Biz	ýuw**sak**/süpür**sek**	If we wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuw**saňyz**/süpür**seňiz**	If you wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuw**salar**/süpür**seler**	If they wash/wipe...

Eger-de meniň wagtym **bolsa**, men agşam telewizor görerin.
If I have enough time, I watch TV in the evenings.

Eger biri jaň **etse**, maňa aýtsana.
If anyone calls, please tell me.

Eger biziň pulumyz ýeterlik **bolsa**, biz Aşgabada göçeris.
If we have enough money, we will move to Ashgabat.

Haçan-da ol **gelse**, biz ýygnagy başlamaly.
If she comes, we should start the meeting.

Eger biz kitabyňy **tapsak**, saňa bereris.
If we find your book, we'll give it to you.

Eger-de men Jerene köwüş **alsam**, oňa
If I buy shoes for Jeren, I wonder if she'll

ýararmyka? like them?
To form the negative, add "**-ma/-me**" after the verb stem:

Eger-de men **ýazmasam**…	If I do not write...
Men **gitmesem**…	If I do not go...
Eger-de men ertirlik nahar **iýmesem**, ajygaryn.	If I don't eat breakfast, I will get hungry.
Eger-de myhmançylyga baranyňda nahar **iýmeseň**, gaty görerler.	If you don't eat when you go guesting, they will be offended.
Eger Gözel okuwa **gelmese**, mugallym käýär.	If Gozel doesn't come to school, the teacher scolds her.

The above structure can also be used in conjunction with the verb "**bolmak**" to ask for permission to do something, similar to the English, "is it ok if…":

Okasam bolýarmy?	Is it okay if I read?
Iýsem bolýarmy?	Is it okay if I eat?
Men öňüne **geçsem bolýarmy**?	Is it okay if I move to the front?
Biz ertir şähere **gitsek bolýarmy**?	Is it okay if we go to the city tomorrow?
Olar toýa **gitse bolýarmy**?	Is it okay if he goes to the toy?

Conditionals in the Present Tense
Şert Formasynyň Häzirki Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy
The meaning implied by the following grammar is similar to that above. The structure is as follows: verb stem + "**-ýan/-ýän**" + present-future conditional form of the verb "**bolmak**."

	ýuw**mak**/süpür**mek**	**to wash/to wipe**
Men	Ýuw**ýan bolsam**/süpür**ýän bolsam**	If I wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuw**ýan bolsaň**/süpür**ýän bolsaň**	If you wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuw**ýan bolsa**/süpür**ýän bolsa**	If she washes/wipes...
Biz	ýuw**ýan bolsak**/süpür**ýän bolsak**	If we wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuw**ýan bolsaňyz**/süpür**ýän bolsaňyz**	If you wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuw**ýan bolsalar**/süpür**ýän bolsalar**	If they wash/wipe...

Ol kitap **ýazýan bolsa**, köp okaýandyr.	If he is writing a book, he must read a lot.
Biz Lebaba **gidýän bolsak**, onda Köytendagy görjek.	If we go to Lebap, then we will see Koytendag.
Siz öýde **galýan bolsaňyz**, nahar bişirmeli.	If you stay at home, you should cook.
Bilýän bolsalar gelerdiler.	If they had known, they would have come.
Bilýän bolsam, senden soramazdym.	If I knew, I wouldn't ask you.
Sen Aşgabada **gidýän bolsaň**, jorama salam aýtsana.	If you are going to Ashgabat, please say hello to my friend.

To form the negative, add "**-maýan/-meýän**" after the verb stem:

Bilmeýän bolsam sorardym.	If I hadn't known, I would have asked.
Haly **dokamaýan bolsalar**, stanogy getirsinler.	If they are not weaving a carpet let them

	bring the loom.
Iş **etmeýän bolsaňyz** maňa kömekleşiň.	If you aren't working, help me.

Conditionals in the Past Tense
Şert Formasynyň Öten Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy

The following structure appears similar to the second and third conditional forms in English, but differs in that the associated "then" clause can take any tense. Construction is as follows: verb stem + "**-an/-en**" + present-future conditional form of the verb "**bolmak**."

	ýuw**mak**/süpür**mek**	**to wash/to wipe**
Men	Ýuw**an bolsam**/süpür**en bolsam**	If I washed/wiped...
Sen	ýuw**an bolsaň**/süpür**en bolsaň**	If you washed/wiped...
Ol	ýuw**an bolsa**/süpür**en bolsa**	If she washed/wiped...
Biz	ýuw**an bolsa**k/süpür**en bolsak**	If we washed/wiped...
Siz	ýuw**an bolsaňyz**/süpür**en bolsaňyz**	If you washed/wiped...
Olar	ýuw**an bolsalar**/süpür**en bolsalar**	If they washed/wiped...

Men ony **tanan bolsam**, salam bererdim.	If I had known her, I would have said hello.
Nahar **iýen bolsaň**, çay içiber.	If you've eaten, go ahead and drink tea.
Ol **gelen bolsa**, biz ýygnagy başlaly.	If he's come, let's start the meeting.
Eger biz **baran bolsak**, siziň bilen bazara giderdik.	If we had gone, we would have gone to the bazaar with you.
Telewizor **gören bolsaňyz**, täzelikleri eşidensiňiz.	If you had watched tv, you would have heard the news.
Myhmanlar **gelen bolsalar**, nahar äberiň.	If the guests have come, serve them food.
Ejem çörek **bişiren bolsa**, men saňa bererin.	If my mother has made bread, I'll give it to you.

To form the negative, add "**-madyk/-medik**" after the verb stem:

Eger men ertirlik nahar **iýmedik bolsam** ajygardym.	If I hadn't eaten breakfast, I would be hungry.
Eger Gözel okuwa **gelmedik bolsa**, mugallym oňa gygyrardy.	If Gozel hadn't come to school, the teacher would have yelled at her.
Ýagyş **ýagmadyk bolsa**, gezelenje giderdik.	If it hadn't rained, we would have gone for a walk.

Conditionals in the Future
Şert Formasynyň Geljek Zaman Goşulmasy Bilen Ulanylyşy

Future conditionals in Turkmen are similar to the statement, "if I am going to" in English. Structure is as follows: verb stem + "**-jak/-jek**" + present-future conditional form of the verb "**bolmak**." Note that Turkmen speakers use this future form frequently when English speakers would use a present tense conditional phrase.

	ýuw**mak/**süpür**mek**	**to wash/to wipe**
Men	Ýuw**jak bolsam/**süpür**jek bolsam**	If I(‘m going to) wash/wipe...
Sen	ýuw**jak bolsaň/**süpür**jek bolsaň**	If you(‘re going to) wash/wipe...
Ol	ýuw**jak bolsa/**süpür**jek bolsa**	If she(‘s going to) wash/wipe...
Biz	ýuw**jak bolsak/**süpür**jek bolsak**	If we(‘re going to) wash/wipe...
Siz	ýuw**jak bolsaňyz/**süpür**jek bolsaňyz**	If you(‘re going to) wash/wipe...
Olar	ýuw**jak bolsalar/**süpür**jek bolsalar**	If they(‘re going to) wash/wipe...

Eger men ertir **işlejek bolsam**, ir turmaly bolaryn.	If I am going to go to work tomorrow, I have to get up early.
Iňlisçe **öwrenjek bolsaň**, köp praktika gerek.	If you are going to learn English, much practice is necessary.
Ejem çaý **içjek bolsa**, men demläp berjek.	If my mother is going to drink tea, I will make it for her.
Biz kitap **ýazjak bolsak**, kompýuter bilmeli.	If we are going to write a book, we should know how to use a computer.
Siz tans **etjek bolsaňyz**, daşaryk çykyň.	If you are going to dance, go outside.
Gepleşjek bolsalar, jaň etsinler.	If they are going to talk, let them call.

To form the negative, add “**-majak/-mejek**” after the verb stem:

Aýlyk **tolemejek bolsaňyz**, men işlejek däl.	If you are not going to pay salaries, I will not work.
Görmejek bolsaň, telewizory öçür.	If you are not going to watch it, turn off the TV.
Sumkany satyn **almajak bolsaň**, bahalatma.	If you are not going to buy the bag, don’t ask for the price.
Merjen nahar **bişirmejek bolsa**, men restorana gitjek.	If Merjen is not going to cook, I will go to a restaurant.
Toýa **gitmejek bolsam**, eşiklerimi çalşyrjak.	If I am not going to go to the party, I will change clothes.

Double Verbs
Hal işlikler

In English, we put the word "and" between two conjugated verbs to express that two actions are performed at once or at relatively the same time. It can also mean one action was performed, and a second immediately followed. Turkmen employs a structure that puts the two verbs together. The first verb is reduced to its stem and the participial ending "**-yp/-ip/-p**" is added according to vowel harmony. The ending of the second verb determines the performer of the actions, as in the following examples:

Men düýn nahar **iýip ýatdym**.	Yesterday I ate and went to sleep.
Biz radio **diňläp, hat ýazýarys**.	We are listening to the radio and writing a letter.
Ol şähere **gidip geldi**.	He went to and came from the city.
Sag boluň, biz **iýip geldik**.	Thank you, we ate before we came.
Çyrany **öçürip gel**.	Turn off the light and come.
Sowadyp içiň!	Chill before drinking!

The participial "**-yp/-ip/-p**" endings have negative counterparts, "**-man/-män**," also added to the stem of the first verb. Note that only the first action is negated.

Çagalar okuwa **iýmän gitdiler**.	The children went to school without eating.
Okuwçylar sapaga **okaman gelýärler**.	The pupils come to the lesson without studying.
Sen myhmançylyga **sowgat alman barmaly däl**.	You shouldn't go as a guest to someone's house without taking a gift.
Bagyşlaň, men **bilmän etdim**.	I'm sorry, I did it without knowing.

Expressing Ability: -yp/-ip/-p bilmek
Başarnygyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving the main verb and "**bilmek**" is used to express the ability to do something, similar to use of "can" or "able to." According to vowel harmony, the main verb's stem is followed by the participial ending "**-yp/-ip/-p**," and "**bilmek**" is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

Men Türkmençe **okap bilýärin**.	I can read Turkmen.
Ol rusça **ýazyp bilenok**.	He can't write Russian.
Seniň ejeň süýji nahar **bişirip bilýär**.	Your mother can cook delicious food.
Biz ýerde **ýatyp bilemizok**.	We can't sleep on the floor.
Olar Özbegistana **gidip bilenoklar**.	They can't go to Uzbekistan.
Sen ony **görüp bildiňmi**?	Were you able to see him?
Men maşgalam bilen **gepleşip bildim**.	I was able to speak with my family.
Sen puluňy **çalşyp bildiňmi**?	Were you able to change your money?
Ol dynç **alyp bilmedi**.	He wasn't able to have a rest.
Biz bazara **gidip bileris**.	We can go to the bazaar.

Olar şu nahary **iýip bilmez**.	They won't be able to eat this food.
Men toýa **baryp biljek däl**.	I won't be able to go the party.
Siz on kilometr **ylgap bilersiňizmi**?	Will you able to run ten kilometers?
Gülşat düýe **alyp bilmez**.	Gulshat won't be able to buy a camel.
Okuwçylar bir ýylyň içinde iňlis dilini **öwrenip bilerler**.	The students will be able to learn English in one year.
Men şol gyzyl sagady **alyp bilsem**…	If I could buy that gold watch…
Men **gidip bilmesem**…	If I am not able to go…
Sen **gepleşip bilseň**, köp salam aýt.	If you are able to talk, say a big hello.
Eger biz **gutaryp bilsek**…	If we're able to finish...

Doing an Action for Someone: -yp/-ip/-p bermek
Hereketiň Başga Biri üçin Ýerine Ýetirilmeginiň Aňladylyşy

This is a structure involving "**bermek**" that is used to express the doing of an action for someone. According to vowel harmony, the main verb's stem is followed by the participial ending "**-yp/-ip/-p**," and "**bermek**" is conjugated according to the performer of the action and the tense.

Men size jaý **salyp berdim**.	I built a house for you.
Şol gapyny **ýapyp bersene**.	Please close that door for me.
Saňa şol köwşi **alyp bereýin**mi?	Do you want me to buy those shoes for you?
Lukman näsagyň dişini **bejerip berdi**.	The doctor repaired the patient's tooth.
Enesi agtyklaryna rowaýat **aýdyp berdi**.	The grandmother told a story for her grandchildren.

Beginning an Action: -yp/-ip/-p başlamak
Hereketiň Başlanmagynyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving "**başlamak**" is used to express the beginning of an action. The first verb must be in the **"-yp/-ip/-p**" participial form and "**başlamak**" must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Men şu kitaby **okap başladym**.	I started reading this book.
Nahar **iýip başladyňyz**my?	Have you started eating?
Myhmanlar **gelip başladylar**.	The guests began to arrive.

Completing an Action: -yp/-ip/-p bolmak/gutarmak
Hereketiň Gutaranlygynyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving "**bolmak**" or "**gutarmak**" is used to express the completion of an action. The first verb must be in its "**-yp/-ip/-p**" participial form and "**bolmak**" or "**gutarmak**" must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Şu kitaby **okap bolduň**my?	Did you finish reading this book?
Men**iň jigim süýjileri iýip gutardy.**	My brother has finished eating the candies.

Attempted Action: -yp/-ip/-p görmek
Synanyşygyň Aňladylyşy

A structure involving "**görmek**" is used to express the idea of trying to do something, or the idea of doing-and-seeing. The first verb must be in its "**-yp/-ip/-p**" form and "**görmek**" must be conjugated according to the subject and tense of the sentence.

Bu nahary **dadyp gör**.	Try a bite of this food.
Men **pikir edip göreýin**.	Let me think about it.
Zöhre şol köýnegi **geýip gördi**.	Zohra tried on that dress.
Men **synaşyp görmeli**.	I must try.
Sen **synanyşyp gördüňmi**?	Did you ever try?

Expressing Continuous Action: Otyr, Ýatyr, Dur, Ýör, Barmak
Işligiň Dowamlylygynyň Aňladylyşy

Four verbs in Turkmen, "**oturmak**" (to sit), "**ýatmak**" (to sleep), "**durmak**" (to stand), and "**ýöremek**" (to walk), have special third-person singular forms: "**otyr**, **ýatyr**, **dur**, and **ýör**," respectively. These modal verbs can be used alone or with compound verb structures to indicate a continuous action or the physical position of something. In compound structures, the first verb (the action that is continuing) is in the "**-yp/-ip/-up/-üp/-p**" participial form. Please note that in some parts of Turkmenistan (Lebap for example), the modal verbs are specifically used for this purpose of indicating a continuous action. Therefore, the sentence below can be interpreted in two ways, depending on where you're from:

Olar şu wagt **nahar bişirip otyrlar**.		Right now they are cooking.
	Or	Right now they are cooking, while sitting.

Personal endings are added as such:

	oturmak	**ýatmak**	**durmak**	**ýöremek**
Men	otyr**yn**	ýatyr**yn**	dur**un**	ýör**ün**
Sen	otyr**syň**	ýatyr**syň**	dur**suň**	ýör**süň**
Ol	otyr	ýatyr	dur	ýör
Biz	otyr**ys**	ýatyr**ys**	dur**us**	ýör**üs**
Siz	otyr**syňyz**	ýatyr**syňyz**	dur**suň**yz	ýör**süňiz**
Olar	otyr**lar**	ýatyr**lar**	dur**lar**	ýör**ler**

The above structure can be used as a singular verb to indicate one of the four associated verbs. Note that the third-person singular, "**ýör**," is used by itself only in certain regional dialects. In compound structures with other verbs, it is used more frequently, especially in the regions that use this structure to indicate continuous action. Some examples:

Myrat şu wagt **ýatyr**.	Myrat is sleeping now.
Meniň dostum mugallymlar otagynda **otyr**.	My friend is sitting in the teachers' room.
Meniň maşynym siziň mekdebiňiziň öňünde **dur**.	My car is in front of your school.

In compound structures, these verbs' meanings are retained only in that they indicate the position of the doer of the action (and sometimes the meaning is reduced to *only* suggest continuous action). Also note that, while it has no special continuous forms, the verb "**barmak**" may also indicate continuous action when in a compound structure:

Ol **okap ýatyr**.	He is reading (while lying down).
Men çaý **içip otyryn**.	I'm drinking tea (while seated).
Ol taýda toý **gidip dur**.	There's a party going on over there.
Sag-aman **işläp ýörsüňiz**mi?	Are you working safely? (How are things?)
Men işe **gidip barýan**.	I'm going to work.
Nirä **howlugyp barýaň**?	Where are you hurrying to?

Physical objects capable of continuous action but not physical movement such as cars, refrigerators, electricity, and televisions, use "**dur**" in compound structures:

Cyralar **ýanyp dur**.	The lights are on.
Holodilnik **işläp dur**.	The refrigerator is running.
Duhowka **ýanyp dur**.	The oven is on.
Telefon **işläp dur**.	The telephone is working.

In the case where these modals are used to indicate a continuous action, both the present continuous and past continuous tenses can be formed. Construction is as follows: "**otyr/ýatyr/ dur/ýör**" + simple past suffix.

Men **okap otyryn**.	I am reading.
Men **okap otyrdym**.	I was reading.
Jigim parkda **aýlanyp ýör**.	My little sister is walking around the park.
Jigim parkda **aýlanyp ýördi**.	My little sister was walking around the park.
Biz telewizor **görüp otyrys**.	We are watching TV.
Biz telewizor **görüp otyrdyk**.	We were watching TV.

Expressing Possibility
Mümkinlik Aňladylyşy

The word "**mümkin**" (maybe) can be employed in grammatical structures to indicate possibility. The first structure expresses the possibility that something may happen, but that it is not guaranteed or known to be certain. The resultant meaning is similar to use of the modal verbs "might" or "may" in English. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + possessive suffix + "**mümkin**." The '**k**' is transformed into a '**g**' due to sound assimilation. Note that with this form, the personal possessive pronoun is used instead of the nominative pronoun. The structure can be literally translated into English as "my writing maybe."

	ýaz**mak**/gel**mek**	**to write/ to come**
Meniň	ýaz**magym**/gel**megim mümkin**	I might write/come
Seniň	ýaz**magyň**/gel**megiň mümkin**	You might write/come
Onuň	ýaz**magy**/gel**megi mümkin**	He/she might write/come
Biziň	ýaz**magymyz**/gel**megimiz mümkin**	We might write/come
Siziň	ýaz**magyňyz**/gel**megiňiz mümkin**	You might write/come
Olaryň	ýaz**magy**/gel**megi mümkin**	They might write/come

Some examples:

Wagtym bolsa, meniň **okamagym mümkin**.	If I have time, I might read.
Meniň şäherde nahar **iýmegim mümkin**.	I might eat in the city.
Biziň naharhanada **duşmagymyz mümkin**.	Maybe we'll meet at a restaurant.
Ondan çykyp diskoteka **gitmegimiz mümkin**.	When we leave there, maybe we'll go to a disco.
Goňşymyzyň öýünde dükan **açmagy mümkin**.	Our neighbor might open a store in his house.
Turkmenabat-Mary ýolunyň bahasynyň **arzanlamagy mümkin**.	The fare for the Turkmenabat-Mary route might get cheaper.

The negative is formed by inserting "**-maz/-mez**" after the verb stem:

	ýaz**mak**/gel**mek**	**to write/to come**
Meniň	ýaz**mazlygym**/gel**mezligim mümkin**	I might not write/come
Seniň	ýaz**mazlygyň**/gel**mezligiň mümkin**	You might not write/come
Onuň	ýaz**mazlygy**/gel**mezligi mümkin**	She might not write/come
Biziň	ýaz**mazlygymyz**/gel**mezligimiz mümkin**	We might not write/come
Siziň	ýaz**mazlygyňyz**/gel**mezligiňiz mümkin**	You might not write/come
Olaryň	ýaz**mazlygy**/gel**mezligi mümkin**	They might not write/come

Meniň ertir mekdebiňize **gelmezligim mümkin**.	I might not come to your school tomorrow.
Hat **ýazmazlygym mümkin**.	I might not write a letter.
Işim kän bolsa, **okamazlygym mümkin**.	If I have a lot of work, I might not read.

Biziň günortanlyk nahar **iýmezligimiz mümkin**.	We might not eat lunch.
Jahanyň toýa **gelmezligi mümkin**.	Jahan might not come to the wedding.
Olaryň ýygnaga **gatnaşmazlygy mümkin**.	They might not participate in the meeting.
Başlygyň ýygnaga **gelmezligi mümkin** sebäbi onuň ogly ýaranok.	The boss might not come to the meeting because his son is sick.
Dükana täze matalaryň **gelmezligi mümkin**.	New fabric might not come to the store.
Howanyň **gyzmazlygy mümkin** sebäbi häzir tomsyň soňky aýy.	The weather might not heat up again because it's the last month of summer.
Otlynyň **gelmezlegi** gaty **mümkin**.	The train most likely will not come.

Many English speakers use the word "**Mümkin**" in a liberal manner equivalent to the use of the adverb "maybe" in English. "**Mümkin**" is more frequently used in a manner similar to the English adjective "possible." To use the word correctly in this way, the correct possessive ending should be added to the infinitive form of the verb and followed with the adjective "**Mümkin**".

Biziň daşary yurda **gitmegimiz mümkin**.	We may go to a foreign country.
Olaryň täze jaý **salmagy mümkin**.	They may build a new house.
Şu gün teatrda konsert **bolmagy mümkin**.	Today there may be a concert at the theater.

The following examples are similar to the English structure using the adverb "maybe," and they are correct, but native speakers use this structure less frequently. Also, "**mümkin**" may not be used in combination with the definite future tense; only the indefinite future tense is used. Note that the adverb "**belki**" may also be used. It can imply that one hopes something will happen, and sometimes it is used to make a suggestion:

Mümkin, biz daşary yurda gid**eris**.	Maybe we'll go to a foreign country.
Belki ol ertir gel**er**.	Maybe (I hope) he'll come tomorrow.
Belki çaý iç**eris**.	Maybe we'll drink tea?

However, Turkmen speakers most commonly express possibility using a variety of verb forms such as "bolaýmasa," the indefinite future, and phrases like "Nesip bolsa."

Requesting Permission: mümkinmi?
Rugsat Berilmegini Haýyş Etmek

The word "**mümkin**" can also be used to ask for permission for an action. Structure is as follows: verb in infinitive form + "**mümkin**" + "**-my?/-mi?**":

Çilim çekmek **mümkinmi**?	May I smoke? (Is it okay to smoke?)
Girmek **mümkinmi**?	May I come in?
Jaň etmek **mümkinmi**?	May I make a call?
Okamak **mümkinmi**?	May I read?
Iýmek **mümkinmi**?	May I eat?

Indicating Likely Situations
Çak Edilýän Hadysa

The "**-dyr/-dir**" suffixes express probability rather than possibility. More specifically, this structure is used to express ideas which you believe are true. It is similar to English use of "must be." Usually, this form is employed when speaking in the third person.

Eger iňlisçe kitap gerek bolsa, kitaphanada**dyr**.	If you need English books, there should be some in the library.
Mugallymlar mekdepde**dir**.	The teachers must be at school.
Onuň uly jaýy, maşyny bar. Ol baý**dyr**.	He has a big house and car. He must be rich!
Gerek bolsa, şo taýda pul bar**dyr**.	If you need it, there must be money there.

When used with verbs in the present tense, "**-ýan/-ýän**" is added to the verb stem:

Sähra Amerikanlar bilen işleýär. Ol iňlisçe bil**ýändir**.	Sahra works with Americans. She must know English.
Hoşgün Parahatçylyk Korpusy işle**ýändir**.	On Wednesday, Peace Corps must be open.

When used with verbs in the past tense, the form changes slightly; the past tense suffix is replaced by "**-an/-en**":

Nahar biş**endir**.	The food must have finished cooking.
Şähere gid**endir**.	He must have gone to the city.
Süýji bol**andyr**.	(The food) ought to be tasty.
Çaý içiberiň, sow**andyr**.	Go ahead and drink the tea, (it) must have cooled by now.
Telewizory aç, kino başl**andyr**.	Turn on the TV; the film must have started.
Bu salady ejem taýýarl**andyr**.	My mother must have prepared this salad.
Ol gyňaç daňynypdyr. Ol durmuşa çyk**andyr**.	She's wearing a head scarf. She must be married.
Belki olar bazara gid**endirler**.	Maybe they went to the bazaar.

When used with verbs in the future tense, "**-jak/-jek**" is added to the verb stem:

Mümkin biz futbol oýna**jakdyrys**.	Maybe we'll play soccer.
Belki olar Maryda ýaşa**jakdyrlar**.	Maybe they will live in Mary.
Olar saňa basym hat ýaz**jakdyrlar**.	They should write a letter to you soon.

Making a guess
Çak Etmek

To indicate a situation that one does not know for sure, but which one thinks may be true, the following form is commonly used:

	bol**mak**/git**mek**	**to be/to go**
Men	bol**aýmasam** /gid**äýmesem**	I think I may be /I think I may go
Sen	bol**aýmasaň** /gid**äýmeseň**	I think you may be /I think you may go
Ol	bol**aýmasa** /gid**äýmese**	I think he may be /I think he may go
Biz	bol**aýmasak** /gid**äýmesek**	I think we may be /I think we may go
Siz	bol**aýmasaňyz** /gid**äýmeseňiz**	I think you may be /I think you may go
Olar	bol**aýmasalar** /gid**äýmeseler**	I think they may be/I think they may go

To use this form in the present tense, add "**bolaỳmasa**" with the correct personal ending to a verbless statement, or add the "**-ýan/-ýän**" present participle ending to the verb and follow it with "**bolaỳmasa**" and its correct personal ending. To make the statement negative, add "**-ma/-me**" before "**-ýan/-ýän**":

Ol mekdepde bol**aýmasa.**	I think he may be in the school.
Ol mekdepde **işleýän, bolaýmasa**.	I think he may work in the school.
Sen **bilýaň, bolaýmasaň**…	I think you know…
Olar Türkmençe **bilmeýan, bolaýmasa**.	I think they might not know Turkmen.

To use this form in the past tense, make the conjugated verb a the past participle and use "**bolaýmasa**" as a helping verb:

Ol **giden, bolaýmasa**.	I think he may have gone.
Men **ýazmadyk, bolaýmasam**…	I think I may not have written…
Sen kitabymy **alan bolaýmasaň**…	I think you may have taken the book…

To use this form in the future tense, add "**-jak/-jek**" to the stem of the conjugated verb and use "**bolaýmasa**" as a helping verb. Note that for all verbs other than "bolmak," if conjugated in this form, it indicates future tense. The negative is formed by inserting an "**m**" between the stem of the verb and "**-aýmasa/-äýmese**":

Olar ertir myhmanhanada **ýataýmasalar**.	I think they may sleep in a hotel tomorrow.
Ol indi **gitmejek, bolaýmasa**.	I think he may not go now.
Ol keselhanada **işlemäýmese**.	I think he may not work in the hospital.
Biz toýa **gidäýmesek**.	I think we may go to the party.
Siz täze jaý **aljak bolaymasaňyz**.	I think you may not buy a new house.

Expressing Wants and Desires
Isleg – Meýil Aňladylyşy

In Turkmen, there is a way to express a wish to do something that parallels the English use of infinitives: "**Men çaý içmek isleýärin**" (I want to drink tea). However, a more common way to express desires involves a construction unlike any in English, utilizing "**gelmek**" as a helping verb: "**Meniň çaý içesim gelýär**" (literally, *my tea-drinking comes*). This would roughly translate as "I want to drink tea". The main verb "**içmek**" has the personal ending "**-esim**" added to the stem, with "**gelmek**" in the third-person singular, "**gelýär**." Note the use of possessive pronouns rather than personal pronouns in the following table. However, as always, the pronoun can be omitted since the verb suffix indicates the subject.

	oýna**mak**/iý**mek**	**to play/to eat**
Meniň	oýna**sym**/iý**esim gelýär**	I want to play/to eat
Seniň	oýna**syň**/iý**esiň gelýär**	You want to play/to eat
Onuň	oýna**sy**/iý**esi gelýär**	She want to play/to eat
Biziň	oýna**symyz**/iý**esimiz gelýär**	We want to play/to eat
Siziň	oýna**syňyz**/iý**esiňiz gelýär**	You want to play/to eat
Olaryň	oýna**sy**/iý**esi gelýär**	They want to play/to eat

Meniň köp kitap **okasym gelýär**.	I want to read many books.
Onuň kakasynyň maşyn **alasy gelýär**.	His/her father wants to buy a car.
Amerikan naharyny **iýesim gelýär**.	I want to eat American food.
Seniň doňdurma **iýesiň gelýärmi**?	Do you want to eat ice cream?
Biziň şu gün **işläsimiz gelýär**.	We want to work today.
Onuň maşgalasyny **göresi gelýär**.	She misses her family. (She wants to see her family.)
Jaý **alasym gelýär**, emma pulum ýok.	I want to buy a house, but I don't have money.

The negative is formed by changing the "**gelýär**" to "**gelmeýär**" or, more commonly, "**gelenok**":

Men hat ibermeli, ýöne poçta çenli **ýöräsim gelenok**.	I have to mail a letter but I don't want to walk to the post office.
Meniň şu kitaby **okasym gelenok**.	I do not want to read this book.
Onuň hiç kitap **okasy gelenok**.	He does not want to read any books.
Bagyşlaň, ýöne biziň çorba **iýesimiz gelenok**.	Excuse us, but we don't want to eat soup.
Meniň hiç zat **iýesim gelenok**.	I do not want to eat anything.
Onuň bir ýyl okuwy galdy, emma **okasy gelenok**.	He has one year of school left, but he doesn't want to study.

The past-tense form is also possible. To form the past-tense, simply use the third-person singular, past-tense form of the verb "**gelmek**":

Meniň Türkmençe gowy **öwrenesim geldi**.	I wanted to learn Turkmen well.
Onuň suratçy **bolasy geldi**.	He wanted to be an artist.

Maşynymyzy **ýuwasymyz geldi**.	We wanted to wash our car.

The past-tense negative is formed by changing "**geldi**" to "**gelmedi**":

Şu kinony **göresiň gelmedi**mi?	You didn't want to see this movie?
Meniň **okasym gelmedi**.	I did not want to read.
Meniň düýn kän arak **içesim gelmedi**.	I didn't want to drink a lot of vodka yesterday.

The future tense is also possible. To form the future tense, simply use the third-person singular, indefinite future form of "**gelmek**."

Eger men gitsem, hemmäňizi **göresim geler**.	If I go, I will miss all of you.
Meniň dynç **alasym geler**.	I will want to take a rest.

The negative is formed by changing "**geler**" to "**gelmez**":

Seniň şu taýda **yaşasyň gelmez**mi?	Won't you want to live here?
Onuň ertir hiç zat **edesi gelmez**.	He won't want to do anything tomorrow.

Comparatives and Superlatives
Deňeşdirme we Güýçlendirme

In Turkmen, the comparative form is made by adding the instrumentive suffix "**-dan/den**" to the "lesser" noun being compared. Unlike English, comparative adjectives in Turkmen typically come at the end of comparative statements.

Bu üzümler şol üzümler**den süýji**.	These grapes are sweeter than those grapes.
these grapes those grapes-from sweet.	
Aşgabat Mary**dan uly**.	Ashgabat is bigger than Mary.
Meniň gyzym onuň oglun**dan akylly**.	My daughter is smarter than her son.
Biziň işimiz siziňki**den kyn**.	Our work is more difficult than yours.

Use of the "-**rak/-räk**" suffix implies that there is only a small degree of difference between compared objects. It can roughly be translated to "a little" or "a little more."

Gyzlar oglanlar**dan akyllyrak**.	Girls are a little smarter than boys.
Bekrewe Herrikgala**dan owadanrak**.	Bekrova is a little more beautiful than Herrikgala.
Türkmenistanyň howasy Amerikanyň howasyn**dan yssyrak**.	Turkmenistan's weather is hotter than America's weather.
Meniň köwşüm seniň köýnegiň**den** azajyk **gymmadrak**.	My shoes are a little more expensive than your dress.

The "**-rak/-räk**"ending is also commonly used to express an evaluative idea similar to the English "kind of" or "sort of":

Meniň saglygym **gowurak**.	My health is sort of good.
Şu gün **sowugrak**.	Today it's kind of cold.
Onuň öýi **kiçiräk**.	His house is kind of small.
Düýnki nanymyz **gatyrakdy**.	Our bread was a little hard yesterday.
Türkmenistanyň howasy **gyzgynrak**.	Turkmenistan's weather is kind of hot.

The "**has**" modifier is used to express a greater degree of difference between compared objects. It can be roughly translated to "much" or "much more." If used in a non-comparative statement, the implied meaning is that something is compared to something else; see the third example below:

Aşgabat Moskwadan **has kiçi**.	Ashgabat is much smaller than Moscow.
Men türkmençäni rusçadan **has gowy** bilýärin.	I know Turkmen much better than Russian.
Olar geçen ay **has köp** işlediler.	They worked much more last month.

To form the superlative, the words "**iň**" are added before the adjective. In English, it can be translated as "the most."

Maral meniň **iň gowy** okuwçym.	Maral is my best pupil.

Sekizinji synplaryň **iň ökde** okuwçylaryny saýla!	Choose the brightest pupils of the eighth grade.
Orsýet dünýäde **iň uly** ýurtdyr.	Russia is the largest country in the world.
Meniň pikirimçe, Türkmen dili **iň kyn** dil.	In my opinion, Turkmen is the most difficult language.
Türkmen atlary **iň owadan**.	Turkmen horses are the most beautiful.

To form comparisons that express likeness (equivalent to the English "as... as…") Turkmen uses the following structure:

Seniň şlýapaň hem onuňky **ýaly** gymmat.	Your hat is as expensive as hers.
Seniň itiň hem onuňky **ýaly** uly.	Your dog is as big as his.
Onuň okuwçylary hem biziňki **ýaly** gowy.	Their students are as good as ours.
Meniň ejem hem Madonna **ýaly** oňat aýdym aýdyp bilýär.	My mother can sing as well as Madonna.

The English structure "so … that" ("so big that…" or "so long that…") is formed in Turkmen with the words "**şeýlebir**" and "**welin**" (optional) in the following way:

Şeýlebir köp adam toýa geldi **welin**, nahar ýetmedi.	So many people came to the party that there wasn't enough food.
Şeýlebir garaňky **welin**, men hiç zat görüp bilmedim.	It was so dark that I couldn't see anything.
Howa **şeýlebir** yssy, daşary çykar ýaly däl.	The weather is so hot it's impossible to go outside.

Statements Expressing Time
Wagt Aňladylyşy

Habitual Action In the Past
Endik Bolan Hereketleriň Öten Zamanda Aňladylyşy

It is used to express a habitual action that began and finished in the past, similar to "used to" or "would" in English. It is formed as follows: verb stem + "**-ýar/ýär**" + appropriate past-tense ending.

Men öň köp palow **iýýärdim**.	I used to eat a lot of palow.
Sen kiçikäň nemes dilini **okaýardyň**.	You used to study German when you were little.
Ol Türkmenistanda ýaşan wagty, dutar **çalýardy**.	He used to play the dutar when he lived in Turkmenistan.
Ýaňky adam örän gowy **okadýardy**, indi pensiýa çykdy.	That guy (who was just here) used to teach very well, then he retired.
Biz kiçikäk, futbol **oýnaýardyk**.	We played football when we were little.
Siz iňlis dilini her gün **öwrenýärdiňiz**mi?	Did you use to learn English every day?
Olar her 5-nji gün metjide **barýardylar**.	They used to go to the mosque every Friday.

To form the negative, insert "**-ma/-me**" before the "**-ýar/-ýär**" suffix, or suffix "-**mokdym"** after the verb steam.

Men kiçikäm gök-önümleri **halamokdym**.	While I was little I didn't used to like vegetables.
Biz Amerkadakak, türkmençe **bilmeýärdik**.	While we were in America, we didn't know Turkmen.

The above grammar is typically used in conjunction with statements about things that happened at particular times. There are three ways to construct such statements, as outlined in the following sections. Note that, unlike English, the first clauses of such statements are tenseless; the tense is provided by the second clause. In literal terms, there is no distinction in Turkmen between "when I go" and "when I went," unless the full sentence is given.

Statements With "wagt"
"Wagt" Sözi bilen Belli bir Wagty Aňlatmak

It is possible to apply personal possessive suffixs to the Turkmen word for time, "**wagt**," and add a descriptive word to specify which time. This form is only used when speaking of the past.

Men **ýaş wagtym** futbol oýnaýardym.	When I was young, I used to play football.
Ol **okan wagty** diňe bäşlik alýardy.	When she studied, she used to get only fives.
Biz **kiçi wagtymyz** surat alýardyk.	When we were little, we used to take pictures.

Temporal Statements With "-ka/-kä"
Wagty "-ka/-kä" bilen Aňlatmak

The suffix **"-ka/-kä**" can be added to other words to express that the action of the sentence happened at that time. It implies a continuous situation in the past, as opposed to a single event. To use this form correctly, add the appropriate personal ending to the suffix, as follows:

Men	**-kam/käm**
Sen	**-kaň/-käň**
Ol	**-ka/-kä**
Biz	**-kak/käk**
Siz	**-kaňyz/-käňiz**
Olar	**-kalar/-käler**

Sen **bäbekkäň** köp aglaýardyň.	While you were a baby, you used to cry a lot.
Ol **okuwçyka** hiç wagt okamaýardy.	While he was a student, he never used to study.
Biz **kiçikäk** nemis dilini öwrenýärdik.	While we were little, we used to learn German.
Olar **kiçikäler** bu ýerde köp ruslar bardy.	While they were small there were a lot of Russian people here.

When used in conjunction with a place, "**-da/-de**" is inserted between the place and the appropriate "**-ka/-kä**" suffix, as follows:

Men **uniwersitetdekäm** köp kitap okaýardym.	I used to read many books while I was in the university.
Ol **Türkmenistandaka** rus dilini hem öwrendi.	While she was in Turkmenistan, she also learned Russian.
Biz şu gün **mekdepdekäk**, gar ýagdy.	While we were at school today, it snowed.

When used in conjunction with a verb, the third-person present simple suffix "**-ýar/-ýär**" is inserted between the verb stem and the appropriate "**-ka/-kä**" suffix. As usual, the first clause is tenseless.

Ol Amerikada **ýaşaýarka**, Türkmenistan barada bilenokdy.	While he was living in America, he did not know about Turkmenistan.
Işden öýe **gelýärkäň** çörek getir.	While you're coming home from work, bring bread.

Negatives are formed by replacing "**-ýar/-ýär**" with "**man/män**" as below. The actual meaning is similar to an English "before" clause, and carries the same meaning as the "**-maz/-mez**" form (see below).

Magtymguly köcä **ýetmänkäň,** sag tarapda dükan bar.	The store is on the right side before you reach Magtymguly Street.
Men Türkmenistana **gelmänkäm,** şu kitaby	I read this book before coming to

okapdym. Turkmenistan.

Constructing Time Clauses
Iki Hereketiň bir Wagtda Bolmagynyň Aňladylyşy

In English we form adverbial clauses that indicate a time at which an action occurs using the word "when." In Turkmen, when the time indicated is shown in relation to another action (for example: "when I came" or "when she calls") this information is expressed by adding an ending to the verb that defines the time. As with the "**wagt**" and "**-ka/-kä**" constructions outlined above, the time clause itself is tenseless. Structure is as follows: verb stem + "-**an/-en/-n**" + possessive suffix + "**-da/-de**." Note that while the adverbial clause may begin with the word "Haçan-da" (equivalent to the English "when"), this word is generally dropped, especially in spoken Turkmen.

	asgyr**mak**/içm**ek** *(written form)*	asgyr**mak**/içm**ek** *(spoken form)*	**to sneeze/to drink**
Men	asgyr**anymda**/içe**nimde**	asgyr**amda**/içe**mde**	When I sneeze/drink
Sen	asgyr**anyňda**/içe**niňde**	asgyr**aňda**/içe**ňde**	When you sneeze/drink
Ol	asgyr**anynda**/içe**ninde**	asgyr**anda**/içe**nde**	When he sneeze/drink
Biz	asgyr**anymyzda**/içe**nimizde**	asgyr**amyzda**/içe**mizde**	When we sneeze/drink
Siz	asgyr**anyňyzda**/içe**niňizde**	asgyr**aňyzda**/içe**ňizde**	When you sneeze/drink
Olar	asgyr**anynda**/içe**ninde**	asgyr**anda**/içe**nde**	When they sneeze/drink

(Haçan-da) Men Türkmenistana **gelenimde** Türkmen dilini öwrenip başladym.
When I came to Turkmenistan, I began to learn Turkmen.

Sen jaň **edeniňde**, men ýatyrdym.
When you called, I was sleeping.

Ol Aşgabada **geleninde**, meniň öýüme gelýär.
When he comes to Ashgabat, he comes to my house.

Biz eksamen **berenimizde,** gaty ýadaýas.
When we take an exam, we get very tired.

Siz howluda **işläniňizde**, biz nahar iýip otyrdyk
While you were working in the yard, we were eating.

Statements With "Before" and "After"
"Öň" we "Soň"Sözleri bilen Belli bir Wagtyň Aňladylyşy

In Turkmen, the construction for expressing an action that comes before or after something else is unique and very important. If an action comes before something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + "**-maz/-mez**" + possessive suffix + "**-dan/-den**" + "**öň**":

	aç**mak**/eşit**mek**	**to open/to hear**
Men	aç**mazymdan**/eşit**mezimden öň**	Before I open/hear
Sen	aç**mazyňdan**/eşit**meziňden öň**	Before you open/hear
Ol	aç**mazyndan**/eşit**mezinden öň**	Before he opens/hears
Biz	aç**mazymyzdan**/eşit**mezimizden öň**	Before we open/hear
Siz	aç**mazyňyzdan**/eşit**meziňizden öň**	Before you open/hear
Olar	aç**mazyndan**/eşit**mezinden öň**	Before they open/hear

Men **ýatmazymdan öň** öý işlerimi gutarypdym. I finished my homework before I slept.

Men Türkmenistana **gelmezimden öň** şu kitaby okapdym.	I read this book before I came to Turkmenistan.

If you specify the subject or it is implied elsewhere, the possessive suffix is not necessary. For example:

Ol işe **gitmezden öň,** suwa düşüpdir.	She took a shower before she went to work.
Telefonda **gürleşmezden öň,** tölemeli.	(You) must pay before you speak on the telephone.
Men Aşgabada **gaýtmazdan öň,** maşgalam antenna satyn aldy.	Before I returned to Ashgabat, my family bought a satellite dish.

If an action comes after something else, the structure is as follows: verb stem + "**-an/-en**" + possessive suffix + "**-dan/-den**" + "**soň**":

Men **ýatyp turanymdan soň** işlerimi gutararyn.	I will finish my work after I sleep.
Men Türkmenistana **gelenimden soň** şu kitaby okapdym.	I read this book after I came to Turkmenistan.
Telefonda **gürleşip bolanyňdan soň** tölemeli.	You must pay after you finish speaking on the telephone.
Men naharymy **iýip bolanymdan soň** bararyn.	I will go after I finish eating.

Expressing lengths of time
Hereketiň Dowamlylygynyň Aňladylyşy

To express the length of time for a noun, the suffix "**-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük**" is sometimes used.

bäş minut**lyk** iş	*(5 minutes of work)*
üç gün**lük** rugsat	*(3-day vacation)*

In a similar way, the time duration of verbs can also be expressed using the above suffix, similar to English use of "for." However, the suffix should not be used with verbs that occur over a length of time; it should only be used with verbs that occur at a single moment (**gitmek**, **gelmek**, **almak**, **bermek**).

Iki ýyl**lyk** geldim.	*(I came for 2 years.)*
Dört aý**lyk** gitdi.	*(He left for four months.)*
Hassahanada üç sagat boldyk.	*(We were at the hospital for 3 hours.)*
~~Hassahanada üç sagat**lyk** boldyk.~~	

If the verb does occur over a length of time, the suffix "**-lap/-läp,**" may be used, although it is optional. Note that the action could still be taking place, or it may have ended:

Ol on bäş ýyl**lap** gitara çaldy.	He played (has been playing) guitar for 15 years.
Men posylka bäş gün**läp** garaşdym.	I waited for the package for 5 days.

Sen on ýyl**lap** mekdepde okadyňmy?	Did you study for 10 years?
Gahrymanlar üç gün**läp** suw içmändirler.	The heroes drank no water for three days.

To communicate the idea of having done something since a specific moment in time in the past, Turkmen uses the present tense in combination with the instrumental case and the postposition "**bäri**" (similar to the English "since"):

Olar sagat ondan **bäri** ýygnakda.	They have been in the meeting since 10 o'clock.
Men Turkmenistana gelenimden **bäri** Türkmençe öwrenýän.	I have been learning Turkmen since I came to Turkmenistan.
Ol on bäş ýaşyndan **bäri** dutar çalýar.	He has been playing dutar since he was 15 years old.
Ol on bäš ýyl(dan) **bäri** dutar çalýar.	He has been playing dutar for 15 years.

Statements With "-ça/-çä"
Wagtyň ""-ça/-çä" bilen Aňladylyşy

The English prepositions "until" or "while" can be expressed in Turkmen with the suffix"**-ça/-çä**." Structure is as follows: verb stem + "**-ýan/-ýän**" + "**-ça/-çä**" + possessive suffix:

Bolýar Döwlet, men gitdim, **görüşýänçäk**.	Okay Dowlet, I'm gone, until we see each other again.
Nahar **bişýänçä** maňa kömekleşsene!	Until the food is done, please help me!
Sapak **başlaýança** kart oýnadyk.	Until the lesson began, we played cards.
Garaňky **düşýänçä** men daşarda oturjak.	Until it gets dark, I'm going to sit outside.
Sen yzyňa **gelýänçäň** men ýataryn.	Until you come back, I'm going to sleep.
Siz şähere **gidýänçäňiz** maňa azajyk kömek edäýiň.	Before you go to the city, please help me a little bit.

While the "-ça/-çä" ending may be translated as "until," note that when referring to times, dates, or other numbers (e.g. "until 6 o'clock"), the postposition "**çenli**" is used:

Men sagat sekize **çenli** mekdepde galmaly.	I have to stay at the school until 8 o'clock.
Ol 6-njy klasdan 9-nji klasa **çenli** okadýar.	He teaches 6th through 9th grades.
Biz ona **çenli** öýe gelmedik.	We didn't come home until 10 o'clock.
Sagat üçe **çenli** öý işleriňi işle.	Do your homework by (until) 3 o'clock.
Mekdep wagta **çenli** nahar bişireris.	We'll cook until it's time for school.
Mekdep wagta **çenli** nahar bişmeli.	The food must be ready by the time school starts.

Gerunds and Infinitives
Işliklerden Ýasalan Atlar we Işligiň Nämälim Formalary

In Turkmen, verbs are sometimes used as nouns, akin to the English use of infinitives and the "-ing" form of verbs. For example:

Ony **tapmak** kyn.	Finding her is difficult. (It is difficult to find her.)
Käşir **iýmek** peýdaly.	Eating carrots is healthy. (It is healthy to eat carrots.)
Taryh barada kitap **okamak** gyzykly.	It is interesting to read books about history.

The difference is that, in Turkmen, cases can then be applied:

Men **almany** halaýan.	I like apples.
Men **ýatmagy** halaýan.	I like sleeping. (to sleep)
Işlemegi dowam et!	Continue working! (to work)
Iňlis dilinde **geplemegi** öwreniň.	Learn to speak in English.
Mekdebimiziň okuwçylary kuşt **oýnamakda** utuldylar.	Our school's students lost at playing chess.
Işlemekden ýadadym.	I am tired from working.

Possessive suffixes may also be added:

Bize **kömekleşmegiň** gerek.	We need your help.
Iňlis dilinde **geplemegi** öwreniň.	Learn to speak in English.
Şu gün işe **gelmegimiz** hökman däl.	Today our going to work is unnecessary.

Applying Dative Case to Verbs: -maga/-mäge
Ýöneliş Düşümiň Işlikler bilen Ulanylyşy

On account of sound assimilation, a '**k**' changes to a '**g**' when followed by other letters, and the infinitive changes accordingly. In these cases, "**-a/-e**" is added to the infinitive, showing directional action. It is used to express that someone "went, "came," or "entered" in order to do something else. Note that in speech (but never in writing), "**-maga/-mäge**" is often pronounced "**-mana/-mäne**."

Men mekdebe doganymy **tapmaga** gitdim.	I went to school to find my sister.
Men bazara iýmit **almaga** gidýärin.	I'm going to the bazaar to buy food.
Sen uniwersitete Türkmen dili **okamaga** girjekmi?	Will you enter the university to study Turkmen language?
Biz iňlis dilini we saglyk barada **okatmaga** geldik.	We came to teach English language and about health.
Biz çykyşy **görmäge** gidýäris.	We are going to see the performance.
Olar nahary **iýmäge** gidipdirler.	They have gone to eat dinner.
Siz ol ýere kino **görmäge** barýarsyňyzmy?	Are you going there to see a movie?
Olar sapaklarymyzy **barlamaga** gelerler.	They will come to review our lessons.
Sen Ahal-teke atlary **münmäge** gidýärsiňmi?	Are you going to ride the Ahal-teke horses?

Men 3-de suratlaryňy **görmäge** barjak.	I'll come to see your pictures at 3.
Ol biziň täze doglan bäbegimizi **görmäge** geldi.	He came to see our new-born baby.
Olar aýda bir gezek pul **almaga** banka barýarlar.	They go to the bank once a month to take money.

Many grammatical structures that initially seem complicated are simply applications of cases, and can be more easily absorbed upon realization of this.

Gerunds with "-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş"
Işliklerden At Ýasalyşy

Another way of forming gerunds in Turkmen uses the endings "-yyş/-ýiş/-yş/-iş/-uş/-üş":

Köp adam onuň **ýazyşyny** halaýalar.	Many people like her writing.
Men onuň tort **bişirişini** öwrendim.	I learned his cake-baking.
Biziň futbol **oýnaýşymyzy** görjekmi?	Do you want to watch our soccer playing?
Ene-atalarymyz biziň **okaýyşymyz** bilen gyzyklanýalar.	Our parents take an interest in our studies.

Imposing Desires on Others: -magyny/-megini
Başganyň Ýerine Ýetirmegine Bagly Isleg

The following structure expresses one's desire or need for someone else to do something. In Turkmen, this unique structure links the possessive pronoun to the intended action. This form is more formal and, therefore, more common in writing. In these statements, there are two people: the person who desires or wants the action, and the person who they want to do the action. The structure is as follows: the director + whose action they desire or need (in genitive form) + the desired action (verb infinitive + possessed form + accusative case) + want/request/wait. Note that, when speaking, reported speech is almost always used in place of this grammar ("My father told me to study," not "My father wants me to study.").

Men	seniň	tort	äkelmegiňi	isleýärin.
I	your	cake	(to bring + iň + i)	(I) want.

I want you to bring a cake.

Sen	meniň	tort	äkelmegimi	isleýärsiň.
You	my	cake	(to bring + im + i)	(you) want.

You want me to bring a cake.

Ol	olaryň	tort	äkelmegini	isleýär.
She	their	cake	(to bring + i +ni)	(she) wants.

She wants them to bring a cake.

Biz	siziň	futbol	oýnamagyňyzy	haýyş edýäris.
We	your	football	(to play + yňyz + y)	(we) request.

We request that you all play football.

Siz	olaryň	futbol	oýnamagyny	haýyş edýärsiňizmi?

You their football (to play + y + ny) (you) request?
Are you requesting that they play football?

Ol **seniň diňlemegiňi** isleýär.	She wants you to listen.
Onuň şeýle **etmegini** haýyş etdim.	I asked her to do it like that.
Onuň gelmegini isleýärin.	I want him to come.
Men **seniň gelmegiňi** haýyş edýärin.	I request that you come.
Men **seniň gelmegiňe** garaşýaryn.	I await your arrival.

Because of the conjugation of the main verb, the first pronoun is not always necessary. Compare the first sentence with the second.

Postpositions

Ugur Görkeziji Kömekçi Sözler

Postpositions, the Turkmen equivalent of English prepositions, differ from their English counterparts not only in that they occur after a noun rather than before it, but also in that they employ a special possessive structure. When saying where something is, you must describe its location as possessed by another object. For example, "the book is on the table" is literally "the book is on the table's top" in Turkmen. Some examples:

Kitab**yň gapdalynda** depder dur. *(book's side-at notebook standing.)*	There is a notebook beside the book.
Türkmenistan**yň günbatarynda** Hazar deňzi ýerleşýär. *(Turkmenistan's west-at Caspian Sea located)*	The Caspian Sea is located to the west of Turkmenistan.
Mekdeb**iň ýokarsynda** baýdak parlap dur.	The flag is waving above the school.
Bulud**yň yzynda** gün şöhle saçyp dur.	The sun is shining behind the clouds.
Mugallym okuwçylar**yň öňünde** dur.	The teacher is standing in front of the students.
Bu gürrüň ikimiz**iň aramyzda** galsyn.	Let this conversation stay between you and me.
Direktor mekdeb**iň içinde**.	The director is inside the school.
Pulumy stol**uň üstünde** goýdum.	I put my money on the table.
Men**iň üstümde** oturmasana!	Please don't sit on me!

A handful other common postpositions, however, do not employ this structure. Examples of these include "üçin" (for), "bilen" (with), and "barada" and "hakda" (both meaning "about"). Note that when some of these postpositions (such as "üçin" and "bilen") are used in combination with pronouns, the pronouns usually appear in the genitive case:

"Meniň üçin" or "meň üçin," "onuň üçin" or "oň üçin," "biziň üçin" or "biz üçin" (but never "olaryň üçin," only "olar üçin"); "meniň bilen," "seniň bilen," or "siziň bilen," (but not "olaryň bilen," only "olar bilen").

Other Important Grammatical Points
Beýleki Möhüm Grammatiki Bölümler

Bar and Ýok
Bar we Ýok
When English employs the verb "to have" or "to exist," as well as various other structures such as "there is/are," Turkmen employs the half-verb "**bar**," and as a negation, it's opposite, "**ýok**." When used in combination with the genitive case and sometimes the locative case, "**bar**" is usually most closely translated into English as the verb "to have":

Men**iň** Eje**m bar**.	I have a mother.
Biz**iň** erkek dogan**ymyz ýok**.	We don't have a brother.
Mered**iň** maşyn**y bar**.	Meret has a car.
Meret**de** maşyn **bar**.	Meret has a car.

Often when bar is used in combination with the locative or nominative cases, it does not indicate ownership, but only existence and/or location of an object:

Gülşat**da** açar **bar**.	Gushat has a key.
Mekdep**de** iki kompýuter **bar**.	In the school there are two computers.
Howlu**da** it **ýok**.	There's no dog in the yard.
Bär**de** restoran **ýokmy**?	There's no restaurant here?
Şaşlyk **barmy**?	Is there any shashlyk?
Barmy Maksat?	Is Maksat here?

To use "**bar**" or "**ýok**" in the past tense, simply add the simple past tense endings:

Men şol otaga girjekdim, ýöne ol ýerde ýygnak **bardy**.	I was going to enter that room, but there was a meeting there.
Olar**yň** toýyn**da** arak **ýokd**y.	There was no vodka at their party.
Biz**iň** maşyn**ymyz bardy,** ýöne satdyk.	We had a car, but we sold it.

Note, however, that in the future and conditional tenses, "**bar**" and "**ýok**" are replaced by the verb "bolmak" (see below). Also note that there is a verb "barmak," which means "to be going somewhere," or "to arrive," and it should not be confused with the half-verb "**bar**."

The Verb "Bolmak"
"Bolmak" işligi
One point of confusion faced by English speakers when first learning Turkmen is the frequent omission of a verb when in English the verb "to be" is required. While there is a Turkmen equivalent of the verb "to be" ("**bolmak**"), it is used in a variety of ways that often differ from the uses of the English variant. First note that it is not usually used as a connecting verb in the present tense, as the English verb "to be" is:

Türkmenistan owadan.	Turkmenistan is beautiful.
Men mugallym.	I am a teacher.

However, when describing a state of being that is regularly or always true, "**bolmak**" may be used in the present tense. Note the contrast in the following two examples:

Bu gün yssy.	Today it's hot.
Tomus yssy **bolýar**.	It's hot in the summer.

"**Bolmak**" may also be used as a connecting verb in the past tense.

Bu ýyl tomus yssy **boldy**.	Summer was hot this year.
Kino gaty gyzykly **boldy**.	The movie was very interesting.
Biz barjakdyk, emma giç **boldy**.	We would have gone, but it was late.

While in many cases, Turkmens simply apply past tense endings to an adjective or noun to communicate this idea, note that sometimes both options are possible, and there can sometimes be a slight difference in meaning. This difference has to do with whether or not what is being described is still true:

Toýda adam köpdi.	There were many people at the party (and they may or may not be there anymore).
Toýda köp adam **boldy**.	There were many people at the party (but not anymore).

Note also that in the above examples, instead of "**boldy**" or simply using the past tense endings, the half-verb "bar" may also be used in combination with past tense endings to express the same idea:

Toýda köp adam bardy.	There were many people at the party.
Onuň ýetirlik puly bardy.	She had enough money.

However, in the future tense and in the conditional tense, "**bolmak**" serves both as a connecting verb and in place of "bar," although it is sometimes acceptable to use "bar" and "bolmak" together in a conditional phrase:

Men Parahatçylyk Korpusynyň Meýlitinçisi **boljak**.	I'm going to be a Peace Corps Volunteer.
Şäherde maşyn kän **bolar**.	There will be a lot of cars in the city.
(Şäherde maşyn kän ~~**bar**~~ **bolar**.)	
Nahar süýji **bolmasa**, az iýerin.	If the food isn't good, I won't eat a lot.
Wagtym **bolsa**, saňa kömek ederin.	If I have time, I'll help you.
Wagtyňyz **bar bolsa**, bize kömek ediň.	If you have time, help us.
Mugallym **bolmasa**, sapak **bolmaz**.	If there's no teacher, there won't be a lesson.
(Mugallym **ýok bolsa**, sapak ~~**ýok bolar**~~.)	

The use of "**bolmak**" is also necessary in various command forms:

Akylly **bol**!	Behave yourself! (literally: Be smart!)
Sag **boluň**.	Thank you /goodbye (lit: Be well!).
Ýaşy uzyn **bolsun**!	May he have long life! (lit: May his years be long!)
Bol!	Go! /It's your turn! /Finish!

At times, the verb "**bolmak**" is used in a sense similar to "gutarmak," to finish, especially in combination with a second verb in the **-ip/-yp/-up/-üp/-p** form:

Bolduňmy?	Are you done?
Ol bu kitaby oka**p boldumy**?	Has she finished reading this book?

In other cases, "**bolmak**" may carry a meaning similar to the English verb "to happen":

Näme **boldy**?	What happened?
Oňa näme **bolýar**?	What's the matter him?
Kinoda näme **bolup dur**?	What's going on in the movie?

A final use of "**bolmak**" is in various colloquial expressions:

Bolýarmy? (**Bormy**?)	Okay?
Boljak.	It'll do.
Boldy.	Done. That's all.
Bolmaz.	It won't work.
Bolanok.	It's not correct./I'm not agree with you.

"In Order To"
Üçin / Ýaly

Gerunds can be used with the accusative case to convey that one action was performed in order to complete another, separate action (see p.689). To express similar statements that lack directional action (sentences with verbs that do not take the dative case), the construction is different. The Turkmen construction can be literally translated as "for" or "in order to do" something. Structure is as follows: verb infinitive + "**üçin**":

Men 5-lik **almak üçin** ýazdym.	I wrote in order to get a five.
Ol bilimli **bolmak üçin** oňat okady.	He studied in order to be knowledgeable.
Biz şu Türkmen el işlerini öýümizdäkilere **bermek üçin** satyn aldyk.	We bought these Turkmen handicrafts to give to our family (those at our home).
Sen teatra **girmek üçin** tölediňmi?	Did you pay to get into the theater?

Below is an alternative construction to express the equivalent of the English "so that" or "in order to," which is especially common in conversation. Structure is as follows: desired outcome

with verb in third-person singular, indefinite future tense + "**ýaly**" + action being performed in order to achieve the outcome:

Men kitaby gowy **okar ýaly** äýnek dakynýaryn.	I wear glasses so that I can read books well.
Joram gowy iş **tapar ýaly** iňlis dilini öwrenýär.	My friend studies English in order to find a good job.
Günüň ýagtysy **girmez ýaly** tutyny ýapyp bersene.	Please close the curtain so that the sun's light won't come in.
Biz saglygymyz oňat **bolar ýaly** ýagly nahar iýemizok.	In order that our health will be good, we don't eat fatty food.
Sen rugsat **alar ýaly** bilim bölümine barmaly.	In order to get permission you must go by the Education Department.
Seniň dişiň ak **bolar ýaly** günde iki gezek dişiňi ýuwmaly.	You should brush your teeth twice a day so that your teeth will be white.

Wondering
"-myka/-mikä;-ka/-kä" bilen Soralyşy

The suffixes "**-ka/-kä**" are added to the final word of a question sentence to emphasize wonder or a desire to know something that is uncertain. In some cases it is similar to the English "I wonder," though usually the speaker expects an anser from someone else. Construction is as follows: question + "**-ka/-kä**" + possessive suffix:

Serdar barmy**ka**?	Can you tell me if Serdar is there?
Ejeň şähere gitdimi**kä**?	Can you tell me if your mother went to the city?
Haçan geler**kä**?	Can you tell me when she'll come?
Şu taýda saklap bolmazmy**ka**?	(I wonder) would it be possible to stop here?
Amerikanyň ilçihanasynyň nirededigini aýdyp bilmezmi**käňiz**?	Could you tell me where the American Embassy is?
Konferensiýa haçan**ka**?	(I wonder) when is the conference?
Biz ertir şahere gidip bilerismi**käk**?	Will we be able to go to the city tomorrow?
Men seniň bilen teatra gidip bilermi**käm**?	I wonder if I can go with you to the theater.
Uly klaslary okadyp bilermi**käňiz**?	Can you teach big classes?

Note that, as the examples illustrate, the "**-ka/-kä**" suffix itself can imply the subject of the statement.

Causing
Sebäpli/üçin

As in English, it is possible to relate an explanation for the outcome of a situation, similar to the use of "because of" ("sebäpli"). However, in Turkmen, "**üçin**" may also be used to convey the same meaning. When the reason contains a verb, the ending of the verb changes slightly. For

past tense, construction is as follows: verb stem + "**-an/-en**" + "**-lygy/-ligi**" + "**sebäpli**" + result clause. For present tense, replace the "**-an/-en**" with "**-ýan/-ýän**":

Ýagyş ýag**anlygy sebäpli**, uçar wagtynda uçmady.	Because it rained, the plane didn't take off on time.
Kurorta gidýän**ligiňiz üçin** bir aý rugsat almaly bolarsyňyz.	You will have to ask for one month (of vacation) in order to go to the spa.

For negative statements in the present tense, add "**-ma/-me**" after the verb stem; for past tense, change the "**-an/-en**" to "**-man/-män**."

Siziň kasseta getir**mänligiňiz üçin** kino görüp bilmeris.	Because you didn't bring the cassette, we will not be able to watch the movie.
Ýara**maýanlygym sebäpli** şu gün okuwa gidip bilmedim.	Because I am sick, I couldn't go to school today.

Reported Speech

Başganyň Sözüniň Üçünji Ýöňkemede Berilmegi

The "**-dyk/-dik**" endings, when added to a word, are similar to the English "that" and create a dependent clause or show indirect speech in a sentence. To use "**-dyk/-dik**," add the suffixes to the conjugated verb that belongs in the dependent clause and add the appropriate possessive suffix (**-ym/-im**, **-yň/-iň**, **-yn/-in**, **-ymyz/-imiz**, **-yňyz/-iňiz**, **-yn/-in**) in the accusative case (**-y/-i**). The "**-dyk/-dik**" endings may also be added directly to a noun, adjective, or question word.

Men	oňa	altyda	geljek**digimi**	aýtdym.
I	to him	at 6:00	(will come + that + m + i)	(I) told.

I told him that I would come at 6:00.

The following examples show how to express such statements in different tenses:

Ol özüniň günde telewizor gör**ýändigini** aýtdy.	He said that he watches television everyday.
Ol özüniň günde telewizor gör**endigini** aýtdy.	He said that he watched television every day.
Ol özüniň günde telewizor gör**jekdigini** aýtdy.	He said that he would watch television every day.
Siz maňa näme isle**ýändigiňizi** aýdyň.	Tell me what you want.
Ol maňa köp zat öwren**ýändigini** aýtdy.	He told me that he's learning a lot.
Ol maňa seniň gel**endigiňi** aýtdy.	She told me that you came.
Köwşüň bahasynyň näçe**digini** aýdyp bilersiňmi?	Can you tell me how much your shoes cost?
Mugallymyň nirede**digini** bilýärsiňizmi?	Do you know where the teacher is?
Men ol gyzyň menden uly**dygyny** bilýärin.	I know that girl is taller than I.
Men seniň kitabyň meniňkiden gowu**dygyny** bilýärin.	I know that your book is better than mine.
Biz şu kitabyň sözlük**digini** bilýäris.	We know that this book is a dictionary.

Men toýuň nirede geçiril**jekdigini** bilemok.	I don't know where the party will be held.
Men toýuň nirede bol**ýandygyny** bilemok.	I don't know where the party is.
Men mugallymyň nirede**digini** bilemok.	I don't know where the teacher is.

In spoken Turkmen, if the last word of the dependent clause is a verb, the "**-dyk/-dik**" part of the ending is frequently dropped:

Men toýuň nirede bol**ýanyny** bilemok.	I don't know where the party is.
Ol maňa seniň gel**eniňi** aýtdy	She told me that you came.
Ol (özüniň) günde telewizor gör**jegini** aýtdy.	He said that he would watch television everyday.

Expressing Hearsay and Rumor: -myş/-miş

Eşitmiş

These endings indicate that something has been overheard or is rumored to be true. Typically, it is used informally to gossip, with a meaning similar to "I heard that" or "they say that". In the present tense, simply add "**-myş/-miş**" to the end of the sentence, according to vowel harmony. Because the structure is used almost exclusively when speaking in the third person, conjugations for first and second person have been omitted.

Ol iňlisçe kitaplary okaýar**myş**.	(They say that) she reads English books.
Ol köp iýýär**miş**.	(I heard that) she eats a lot.
Daşary ýurtlarda biziň dogan-garyndaşlarymyz bar**myş**.	(It's been said that) we have relatives in foreign countries.
Serdar agşamlaryna işleýär**miş**.	(They say that) Serdar works in the evenings.
Oglanlar gyz almak üçin 3.000 dollar tölemeli**miş**.	(People are saying that) boys must pay $3,000 in order to marry a girl.

To express this kind of statement in the past-tense, add either the "**-an/-en/-n**" past-tense ending or the "**-yp/-ip/-p**" participial ending to the verb stem, followed by the "**-myş/-miş**" suffix:

Gyzyň synaglardan 5-lik alan**myş**.	(They told me) your daughter got fives on the exams.
Nýu -Ýorkda bäş günläp gar ýagyp**myş**.	(They say that) it snowed for five days in New York.
Toý 5-de başlan**myş**.	(It's rumored that) the wedding began at 5.

To express this kind of statement in the future tense, simply add one of the definite future-tense suffix **"-jak/-jek**" to the verb stem, followed by "**-myş/-miş**."

Gülşat indiki aý toý etjek**miş**.	(I've heard that) Gulshat will get married next month.
Şu ýyl Amerikada täze Prezident saýlanjak**myş**.	(I hear) a new president will be chosen in America this year.

Indiki aý Bil Klinton täze kitaby neşir edjek**miş**.	(It's rumored that) Bill Clinton will publish a new book next month.
Myhmanlar 7-de barjak**myş**.	(She says) the guests will come at 7.

To Get The Attention "Bara"
"Bara"-Kömekçi Sözi

The Turkmen word "**bara**" is used to bring attention to a specific person, place, or thing. Although English doesn't use a similar word, it can be translated roughly as, "You know…" or "Take…for example."

Ýaňky aýal bara, ol meniň ejemiň jorasy.	You know the woman who was just here; she's my mother's friend.

In Turkmen, "**ýaňky aýal**" literally means "the last woman" or "the woman who was just here." The word "**bara**" emphasizes that the speaker wishes to bring the listener's attention to a specific woman and that a statement about that woman will follow.

Şu kitap bara, biziň direktorymyzyň ýazan kitaby.	You know this book—it's the book that our director wrote.
Biziň goňşumyz bara, düýn maşynyny satypdyr.	You know our neighbors—yesterday they sold their car.
Poçtadaky aýallar bara, seni sorady.	You know the women at the Post Office—they asked about you.
Jemal bara, geçen hepde okuwa girdi.	You know Jemal—she started school last week.

However, note that the word bara often has no meaning at all, and is simply used to get the attention of others when one begins speaking, as in "Men bara…" or "Sen bara…"

Verb Suffixes
Işlik Goşulmalary

One very crucial part of knowing Turkmen is learning to use and understand the complex system of suffixes. Simply defined, suffixes, or "**goşulmalar**" are endings added to verb stems to change the verbs' usage and function.

Passive: -yl/-il, -ul/-ül, -l
Işliginň gaýdym derejesi

Adding the following "**goşulmalar**" changes the verb from the active voice to the passive voice. As in English, it is employed when the subject is unknown or unimportant.

iýmek	to eat
iýilmek	to be eaten

Meniň ejem uly halyny dokady.	My mother wove a big carpet.
Şu haly ýüňden **dokaldy**.	This carpet **was woven** from wool.
Şu ýyl ýazyjylar täze hekaýalary döretdiler.	This year, writers created new stories.
Ýaňy-ýakynda şäherimiz hakynda täze goşgy **döredildi**.	Recently a new poem **was written** about our city.
Ol hemişe bize sowgat berýär.	He always gives us gifts.
Tok, duz, gaz, we suw mugt **berilýär**.	Electricity, salt, gas, and water **are given** for free.
Onuň bilen şertnama **baglaşyldy**.	A contract was signed with him.
Geçen hepde gyzykly kino **görkezildi**.	Last week an interesting film **was shown**.
Güljan dişleriniň **bejeril**megini isledi.	Guljan wanted to have her teeth fixed.

Reflexive: -yn/-in, -un/-ün, -n
Işliginň özlük derejesi

Adding the following "**goşulmalar**" makes the verb reflexive so that the subject of the sentence is acting upon itself.

ýuwmak	to wash
ýuwunmak	to wash oneself

Men günde joralarymy görýärin.	I see my girlfriends everyday.
Ol işe **görnüp** gaýtdy.	He showed himself at work and left.
Kakam paltany maşyna söýedi.	My father leaned the axe against the car.
Ol diwara **söýendi**.	He leaned (himself) against the wall.
Jemal, nirä gitdiň? **Görneňok**!	Jemal, where did you go? You haven't shown yourself! (I haven't seen you!)

Reciprocal: -yş/-iş,-uş/-üş,-ş
Özara, Ikitaraplaýyn Hereket

Adding these "**goşulmalar**" expresses that the action is exchanged between two people or groups. To express reciprocal action in English we often say "each other" or "one another."

geplemek	to speak
gepleşmek	to converse

Maral jigisini gujaklady.	Maral hugged her little brother/sister.
Dostlar **gujaklaşdylar** we **ogşaşdylar**.	The friends hugged and kissed each other.
Sen Selbini gördüňmi?	Did you see Selbi?
Biz **görşüp salamlaşdyk**.	We saw and greeted each other.
Sag boluň, **görüşýänçäk**.	Good-bye, until we see each other (again).
Jemal we Jeren täze ýylda sowgatlar **berşerler**.	Jemal and Jeren will give each other presents on New Years.
Güljan bilen goňşulary günde **salamlaşýar**.	Guljan and her neighbors greet each other every morning.
Okuwçylar sorag-jogap **alyşdylar**.	The students exchanged questions and answers.

However, note that with some verbs, this ending is not necessarily reflexive ("kömekleşmek," "bişirişmek," "göterişmek," "ýazyşmak," or sometimes even the verbs in the above examples). In these cases, the meaning is that one person helped another do something.

Men oňa kitap **ýazyşdym**.	I helped her write a book.
Ol jigisine öý işini **işleşdi**.	He helped his little bother do his homework.

Causative: -dyr/-dir, -dur/-dür, -yr/-ir, -ur/-ür, -uz/-üz, -ar/-er, -dar/-der, -t
Işliginň täsirini geçirme

Adding these "**goşulmalar**" makes the subject of the verb also the cause of an action or state, for example making someone do something.

düşünmek	to understand
düşündirmek	to explain (to make understood)
okamak	to learn
okatmak	to teach (to make someone else learn)

Men şu kitap bilen gyzyklanamok.	I am not interested in this book.
Meni mugallym şu kitap bilen **gyzyklandyrdy**.	The teacher got me interested in this book.
Mergen öýe gelip derrew ýatdy.	Mergen came home and went to sleep right away.
Gülşat çagalaryny giç **ýatyrdy**.	Gulshat put her children to bed late.

Men Aýnabady görenimde güldüm. Ol gülkünç degişme aýdanynda, dostlaryny **güldürdi**.	When I saw Aynabat, I laughed. He made his friends laugh when he told a funny joke.
Tomsuna hemme adamlar ir turýarlar. Sagat 10-da meni **turuzsana**! Ol işledi. Ol meni howlusynda **işletdi**.	Everyone wakes up early in the summer. Wake me up at 10 o'clock! He worked. He made me work in his yard.
Ol şu gün ýalňyşyna düşündi. Mugallym täze mowzugy **düşündirdi**.	Today he realized he had made a mistake. The teacher explained a new topic.

Only "**görmek**" (to see) uses the "**goşulma**" "**-kez**" in its causative form:

Olar bizi köçede gördüler. Men suratlarymy jorama **görkezýärin**.	They saw us on the street. I am showing my friend my pictures.

Important Suffixes and Prefixes
Möhüm Öň we Soň Goşulmalary

-la/-le
The suffix **"-la/-le**" is often used to form a verb from a noun or adjective.

gep	speech	**iş**	work	**yssy**	hot
gep<u>lemek</u>	to speak	**iş<u>lemek</u>**	to work	**yssy<u>lamak</u>**	to become hot
el	hand	**göz**	eye	**täze**	new
el<u>lemek</u>	to touch	**göz<u>lemek</u>**	to look for	**täzelemek**	to renew

-çy/-çi,-ýjy/-ýji,-yjy/-iji,-üji/-ujy
The suffix "**-çy/-çi**" can be added to nouns and functions like "**-ist**" or "**-er**" in English, denoting occupation, profession, or position.

iş	work	**okuw**	school	**surat**	picture
iş<u>çi</u>	worker	**okuw<u>çy</u>**	pupil	**surat<u>çy</u>**	artist

gep	talk
gep<u>çi</u>	talker (blabbermouth)

In cases where verbs are made into nouns, the suffix becomes "**-yjy/-ýjy/-ýji/-iji/-üji/-ujy"**:

diňlemek	to listen	**okamak**	to read	**ýasamak**	to craft
diňle<u>ýji</u>	listener	**ok<u>yjy</u>**	reader	**ýasa<u>ýjy</u>**	artisan
ýazmak	to write	**sürmek**	to drive	**satmak**	to sell
ýaz<u>yjy</u>	writer	**sür<u>üji</u>**	driver	**sat<u>yjy</u>**	seller

-dar
The suffix "**-dar**" can make personal nouns out of other nouns. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

bergi	debt	**tarap**	side
bergi<u>dar</u>	debtor	**tarap<u>dar</u>**	supporter

-keş
The suffix "**-keş**" personalizes certain nouns indicative of a particular custom or habit. It is unaffected by vowel harmony.

gybat	gossip	**nas**	green chewing tobacco
gybat<u>keş</u>	gossiper	**nas<u>keş</u>**	tobacco chewer (habitual)
çilim	cigarette	**çaý**	tea
çilim<u>keş</u>	chain smoker	**çaý<u>keş</u>**	tea-lover

-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz

The suffix "**-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz**" is similar to "un-," "-less," or "without" in English.

tertip	behavior	**howp**	danger	**adalat**	justice
tertip<u>siz</u>	poorly-behaved	**howp<u>suz</u>**	safe	**adalat<u>syz</u>**	unfair

akyl	intelligence	**garaş**	wait
akyl<u>syz</u>	unintelligent	**garaş<u>syz</u>**	independent (without waiting)

-ly/-li

The suffix "**-ly/-li**" forms an adjective in the same way as "**-syz/-siz/-suz/-süz**," but with an affirmative meaning rather than a negative one.

tertip<u>li</u>	well-behaved	**howp<u>ly</u>**	dangerous	**adalat<u>ly</u>**	just
akyl<u>ly</u>	intelligent	**garaş<u>ly</u>**	dependent		

bi-

The prefix "**bi-**" expresses the idea of "without." It does not affect, nor is it subject to, vowel harmony.

tarap	side	**günä**	sin	**kanun**	law
<u>bi</u>tarap	neutral	**<u>bi</u>günä**	innocent	**<u>bi</u>kanun**	lawless

-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük

The suffixes "**-lyk/-lik/-luk/-lük**" function to create abstract nouns, like the suffixes "**-hood**," "**-ness**," or "**-ity**" in English. They adhere to vowel harmony.

gözel	beautiful	**çaga**	child
gözel<u>lik</u>	beauty	**çaga<u>lyk</u>**	childhood

köp	much, many	**dost**	friend
köp<u>lük</u>	plurality	**dost<u>luk</u>**	friendship

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives from numerical expressions.

bäş	five	**bir ýyl**	one year	**on üç**	thirteen
bäş<u>lik</u>	a five (money)	**bir ýyl<u>lyk</u>**	a year's worth	**on üç<u>lük</u>**	(bus) #13

This suffix can also make nouns and adjectives which show purpose.

günde	everyday	**ýetmek**	to suffice	**el**	hand
günde<u>lik</u>	diary	**ýeter<u>lik</u>**	enough	**el<u>lik</u>**	glove

Multiple suffixes may also be combined:

bitaraplyk	neutrality	**bigünälik**	innocence
howpsuzlyk	safety	**adalatlylyk**	justness
mugallymçylyk	pedagogy	**bergidarlyk**	indebtedness

Diminutives
Atlaryň we Sypatlaryň Söýgülik Derejesi

In Turkmen, it is possible to make a diminuitive form of both adjectives and nouns. To create a diminuitive adjective, add the suffix "**-ja/-je**" or sometimes "**-jak/-jek/-jyk/-jik**":

sary	yellow	**sowuk**	cold
saryja	little (cute) yellow	**sowujak**	nice and cold
kiçi	little	**bir**	one
kiçijek	little/tiny	**birje**	just one little…

To create a diminuitive noun, add the suffix "**-jyk/-jik,**" or sometimes "**jagaz**":

oglan	boy	**depder**	notebook
oglanjyk	little boy	**depderjik**	little notebook
gyz	girl	**gül**	flower
gyzjagaz	little girl	**güljagaz**	(just one) little flower

The "-da/-de" ending as "also"
"-da/-de" Ownuk Bölegi "Hem" Manysynda

If a hyphen precedes the "-da/-de" ending on a word, it is not the locative case, but rather can indicate several things, the most common of which is the meaning "and," "also," or, in combination with conditional statements, "even though":

Bu**-da** dogry.	This is also correct.
Çyra ýan**sa-da** otagyň içi garaňky.	Even if the light on, inside the room it is dark.

Some Common Mistakes Made by English Speakers

Iňlisçe Gepleýänleriň Türkmen Dilinde Goýberýän Umumy Ýalňyşlary

The Double Negative

Sözlemde Iki Gezek Ýokluk Ulanylyşy

One common point of confusion among English speakers when speaking Turkmen is the difference between "ýok" and "däl." While "däl" negates adjectives, nouns, and certain verb structures in a way similar to the English "not," "ýok" communicates the idea that something does not exist, and therefore applies only to nouns:

Men gitjek **däl**. (~~Men gitjek ýok~~.)	I'm not going to go.
Mende pul **ýok**. (~~Mende pul däl~~.)	I don't have money.
Şol dogry **däl**. (~~Şol dogry ýok~~.)	That's not correct.
Ol Amerikan **däl**. (~~Ol Amerikan ýok~~.)	He's not American.

Also remember that most verb tenses have a negative form that does not require the use of "däl."

Men kömek et**me**dim. (~~Men kömek etdim däl~~.)	I didn't help.

In addition, note that in many cases of negation, Turkmen requires a double negative, unlike English. This applies only when using an absolute negative such as "**hiç kim**" or "**hiç zat**":

Hiç kim jaň et**me**di. (~~Hiç kim jaň etdi~~.)	No one called.
Bazarda **hiç zat ýok**dy. (~~Bazarda hiç zat bardy~~.)	There was nothing at the bazaar.
Ol **hiç haçan** mekdebe gel**enok**. (~~Ol hiç haçan mekdebe gelýär~~.)	He never comes to school.
Bärde **hiç zat** arzan **däl**. (~~Nothing is cheap here~~.)	Nothing here is cheap.

"Eger," "Haçan," and Conditionals

Işliginň Şert Formasy

Many English speakers make the mistake of using the English structure for conditional statements rather than the correct Turkmen structures, which are significantly different. The most common error is using the words "**eger/eger-de**" and "**haçan**" in the way we do in English. In many cases, Turkmen employs a structure that does not use these words, and when they are used, they are frequently dropped in spoken Turkmen:

Bazarda pomidor arzan **bolsa**, men köp alaryn. (**~~Eger-de~~** ~~bazarda pomidor arzan, men köp alaryn~~.)	If the tomatoes are cheap, I'll buy a lot.
(Haçan-da) Men suraty **görenimde**, güldim. (**~~Haçan~~** ~~men suraty gördim, güldim~~.)	When I saw the photograph, I laughed.
Biz **kiçikäk** her gün futbol oýnaýardyk.	When we were little, we played soccer every

(~~**Haçan** biz kiçi boldyk, her gün futbol oýnaýardyk~~.) day.
Haçan-da jaň **kakylsa**, biz öýe gidip bilýäris. When the bell rings, we can go home.
(~~**Haçan** jaň etjek, biz öýe gidip bilýäris~~.)

Definite vs. Indefinite Future
Mälim we Nämälim Geljek Zamanyň Ulanylyşy

When learning Turkmen, there is a tendency to overuse the Definite Future Tense ("**-jak/-jek**") because it is so easy to form. While this may be helpful in the beginning, and while Turkmen will understand, Turkmen themselves use the Indefinite Future Tense more frequently. In many cases, it is not correct to use the Definite Future Tense, especially when speaking in the second or third person:

Şirin haçan gel**er**? (~~Şirin haçan gel**jek**~~?)	When is Shirin going to come?
Sen işl**ärsiň**. (~~Sen işle**jek**~~.)	You are going to work.
Ol bizden sor**ar**my? (~~Ol bizden sora**jak**my~~?)	Is he going to ask us?

"Nähili?" vs. "Nädip?"
"Nähili?" we "Nädip?" Sorag Sözleriniň Ulanylyşy

"**Nähili**" and "**nädip**" are both question words. "**Nähili**" means "how" and "what kind," and is usually used for questions about nouns:

Sen **nähili**?	How are you?
Howa **nähili**?	How is the weather?
Nähili tort?	What kind of cake is it?
Gapynyň reňki **nähili**?	What color is the door?
Sen **nähili** nahary gowy görýäň?	What kind of food do you like?
Öýdäkileriň saglygy **nähili**?	How is the health of everyone at home?
Seniň maşynyň belgisi **nähili**?	What brand is your car?
Nähili adam ol?	What kind of person is he?
Gör! Olar **nähili** owadan!	Look! How beautiful they are!

"**Nädip**" also means "how," but is applied to verbs and connotes ability:

Men **nädip** almaly pirog bişireýin?	How can I bake an apple pie?
Sen **nädip** tapdyň?	How were you able to find it?
Sen kompýuteri **nädip** bejerdiň?	How did you fix the computer?
Telewizory **nädip** açmaly?	How do I turn on the TV?
Şu sözlemi **nädip** terjime etmeli?	How should I translate this sentence?
Bu owadan jaýy **nädip** gurduň?	How did you build this beautiful house?
Bu gymmat göwheri **nädip** satyn alyp bildiň?	How were you able to buy this costly diamond?

Case Mix-ups
Düşümleri garyşdyrmak

Another point of difficulty in Turkmen is remembering which case to use when, since the case system in English is not as highly developed as that of Turkmen. While at many times, the needed case may be obvious, at other times the case depends entirely on which verb or half-verb is used. One must simply remember which verbs take which case. Some common errors:

Men ondan soradym. (~~Men oňa soradym.)~~	I asked him.
Maňa kömek gerek. (~~Men kömek gerek.)~~	I need help.
Men ony halamok. ~~(Men ol halamok.)~~	I don't like it.
Ol maňa düsünmedi. (~~Ol meni düşünmedi~~.)	He didn't understand me.
Aman ol gyzy söýýär. (~~Aman ol gyza söýýär~~.)	Aman loves that girl.
Biz otagdan çykdyk. (~~Biz otagy çykdyk~~.)	We left the room.